Thursday, November 6, 2025 No 306 ₹7

DH

DECCAN HERALD

The Power of Good

Fit Rishabh Pant returns for South Africa Test series

P.15

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DAY 5 NOV 11 **INVESTOR SUMMIT**
Where vision meets venture — connecting startups with India's top investors.

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Exploring the future of Artificial Intelligence, SpaceTech, Clean Energy & Biotechnology — driving India's next innovation wave.

DAY 7 NOV 13 **EDUCATION & CAREER EXPO**
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DAY 8 NOV 14 **ASIAN–AFRICAN CONCLAVE**
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DAY 9 NOV 15 **DEVELOPING TO DEVELOPED INDIA: THE VISION SUMMIT**
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DAY 10 NOV 16 **INFLUENCERS SUMMIT**
Where creators, storytellers & digital entrepreneurs unite — redefining influence, creativity, and community in the digital age.

INAUGURATION BY

DK SHIVAKUMAR
(Deputy Chief Minister, Karnataka)

RAMALINGA REDDY
(Cabinet Minister, Government of Karnataka)

CHIEF GUESTS

SOWMYA REDDY
(Member of Karnataka Legislative Assembly)

ASHNEER GROVER
(Entrepreneur & Former Managing Director, Bharatpe)

SHAFI SHOUKATH
(Founder & CEO, iQue Ventures)

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS OF HONOUR

ANUPAM MITTAL
(Founder & CEO, Shaadi.com)

SONU SOOD
(Actor | Producer)

SAINA NEHWAL
(Olympic Medalist | Entrepreneur)

S R MEHROZ KHAN
(Vice Chairman, Minister of State Rank)

ADITYA ARORA
(Angel Investor, Faad Capital)

AMAR DIXIT
(Angel Investor, Swiftseed ventures)

ISHANT SACHDEVA
(Venture Builder, Investor, Business Mentor)

MEDIA PARTNER

REPUBLIC

Ola Electric's ex-director booked for data theft

To be summoned soon for questioning, say police

MANJUNATH SHETTAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

A former director of Ola Electric Technologies Private Limited is accused of stealing sensitive company data.

Deepesh Rathore, who served as Director (Strategy) for five years, has been booked by the Southeast Cybercrime police under sections 66 (computer-related offences) and 43 (penalty and compensation for damage to computer systems) of the Information Technology Act.

The complaint was filed by Balachandra Datta, a senior executive at the Bengaluru-headquartered company.

According to the complaint, Rathore handled internal communications and financial affairs during his tenure from February 28, 2020, to February 6, 2025.

"During his employment, Deepesh Rathore had access to several confidential company data, including internal communications, financial documents, client information and product development details," Datta stated.

He is accused of illegally sharing internal and confidential information related to company's operations, finances and projects with outsiders. It also found that he forwarded company-related confidential data from his official email (deepesh@olaelectric.com) to his personal email (icwcontra@gmail.com) on November 18, 2024.

Rathore allegedly accessed and used digital insights from the internal 'InsightEV' web portal for his personal benefit, resulting in a serious data breach. The company has decided to initiate strict disciplinary and legal action against him, according to the complaint.

A police officer close to the investigation said detailed documents had been sought from the company and that Rathore would soon be summoned for questioning.

Second case against senior company exec

This is the second police case against a senior Ola Electric executive in less than a month.

In October, Bengaluru police booked company founder and CEO Bhavish Aggarwal and senior executive Subrath Kumar Dash for abetment to suicide after a homologation engineer killed himself.

The engineer left behind a 28-page handwritten purported death note, alleging persistent harassment at his workplace. He was allegedly denied Rs 17.46 lakh in variable pay and incentives for two years, which was paid only two days after his death.

In an interim order, the High Court of Karnataka directed the police not to harass either suspect under the pretext of investigations.

Tenants kill home-alone woman to steal jewellery

Accused nabbed 12 hrs after incident came to light

BENGALURU, DHNS

Subramanyapura police have arrested a couple for killing a 65-year-old woman who was home alone, in what appears to be murder for gain.

The accused were nabbed 12 hours after the incident came to light.

Prasad

Sakshi

The arrested, S Prasad Srishail Makai, 26, and his wife Sakshi Hanamantha Hodhlura, 23, from Solapur, Maharashtra, worked as a centering labourer in Uttarahalli and a jewellery shop receptionist in Padmanabhanagar, respectively.

On Tuesday, the accused smothered Shrilakshmi with a pillow and attacked her to snatch her mangalsutra, later taking away the pillow to destroy evidence, police said.

Shrilakshmi, a Uttarahalli resident, was living with her husband G Ashwatha Narayan, who was away at his agarbatti factory in Cottonpet. When Narayan called her around 2.15 pm and found no response, he assumed she was sleeping.

Around 5.30 pm, he called his tenant Phaniraj to check on Shrilakshmi. Phaniraj was outside and told Narayan that he asked his wife to check.

Around 6 pm, Phaniraj called back to inform that Shrilakshmi was found unconscious on the floor.

Narayan rushed home to find her dead and informed his sister-in-law, Sampathi Lakshmi, who revealed that she had spoken to Shrilakshmi at 1.30 pm. During that call, Shrilakshmi mentioned a couple was home to check the television and that she had stepped out to attend the phone call.

Shrilakshmi and Narayan were married for 40 years and have no children. Scratch marks were found on Shrilakshmi's right side of neck, lips, and face. Her nose ring, finger ring, and earrings were intact, said an officer.

Deep in debt

A senior police officer said the couple confessed during interrogation that Prasad Srishti Makai notched up a Rs 20-lakh debt back in his home-town, a sum he had borrowed from his relatives.

Under pressure to return the money, the couple had planned the murder. They were also tenants of the victim's husband and had moved in five months ago. They had observed the victim's movements for a week.

Man sets himself ablaze near railway station

BENGALURU, DHNS: Panic gripped the area near the Kengeri railway station on Wednesday afternoon after a man set himself ablaze and ran about 200 metres along the railway track.

Residents of a nearby apartment complex recorded the incident on video and circulated it among themselves, making it viral.

A senior police officer said the station master filed a case, and the deceased is yet to be identified. The man is believed to be around 45 years old.

Around 1.45 pm, he was seen walking on the track towards Nayandahalli. He poured petrol on himself, set himself on fire, and ran for a few minutes before collapsing.

Onlookers tried to rescue him, but he sustained severe burns and died on the spot. Police found no mobile phone or identification documents on him. The body was sent to Victoria Hospital for post-mortem. A case of Unnatural Death Report (UDR) has been registered.

Man shares wife's private photos with friends after she demands divorce; arrested

BENGALURU, DHNS

Amruthahalli police on Monday arrested an employee of a private real estate developer for allegedly sharing private photos of his wife and tagging her friends.

The accused has been identified as Govindraju C, 27, a resident of Amruthanagar, who works as a fire and safety supervisor.

The 23-year-old victim filed a complaint against Govindraju for sharing her private photographs with a group of his friends as an act of revenge after she demanded divorce from him.

A senior police officer said the accused and the woman were working in a mall in Yelahanka and had married in 2024. He later changed jobs.

A few months into the marriage, Govindraju allegedly began using his wife's earnings for online betting, which led to frequent quarrels and estrangement. Following repeated harassment, the woman left Bengaluru and returned to her parents' home in Andhra Pradesh.

However, Govindraju allegedly continued to harass and threaten her over phone calls, saying he would upload her obscene photos and videos on social media to tarnish her image.

Fearing public humiliation, she returned to Bengaluru and began staying in a paying guest (PG) accommodation. The accused continued to visit her there, allegedly subjecting her to mental harassment and threats to kill her before ending his own life, the police officer added.

Unable to bear the constant abuse, the woman demanded a divorce. Enraged, Govindraju reportedly shared her private photographs on the Threads app, tagging a group of her friends. Alerted by her friends about the images, the victim decided to file a police complaint.

Amruthahalli police have registered a case under relevant sections of the Information Technology Act and Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

Govindraju was later released on station bail.

Turned away by police

Speaking to *DH*, the woman said she was shattered when she learned that her private photos had been shared with 11 of her friends.

"Earlier, when my husband sent the photos to my number and threatened to upload them on social media, I approached a couple of police stations in the North Division, including a women's police station. "But they refused to take my complaint, saying the offence was committed by my husband, not by an unknown person," she said.

It was only after she approached the Amruthahalli police station that a woman police officer registered the case and detained the accused on the same day.

CYBER SWINDLE

Contractor loses Rs 5.35 cr in online trading scam

MANJUNATH SHETTAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

A 48-year-old city-based contractor has lodged a complaint with the North-East CEN police after being duped of Rs 5.35 crore in an online trading scam involving forex and cryptocurrency investments.

A senior police officer said Narasimha Reddy, a resident of Judicial Layout, alleged in his complaint that he came in contact with a person named Alakanandha through Facebook on August 10. He was convinced that Alakanandha's uncle was doing well in online trading and suggested Reddy do the same. The duo then began chatting on WhatsApp to discuss the trading and profit process.

A few days later, the accused convinced Reddy to invest in crypto and forex trading, promising high profits. The accused sent a link and asked Reddy to register and open an account on the platform. Reddy followed the instructions and began transferring money from his various bank accounts, the police officer added.

Initially, Reddy was promised a 3% commission. Later, he was told he needed to upgrade to a "VIP customer" by paying an additional 5% to withdraw his profits. Believing the claim, Reddy made multiple transactions, transferring a total of Rs 5.35 crore, including Rs 35 lakh as commission.

However, once the transactions were completed, the accused stopped all correspondence, and Reddy realised he had been duped. He then lodged a complaint through the National Cybercrime Reporting Portal (NCRP) and called Cyber Helpline 1930, the police officer said.

CEN police have launched an investigation into the online fraud, which appears to be part of a wider international trading scam network. Further investigations are ongoing.

Bengaluru Thursday, November 6, 2025 Pages 18 Vol 78 No 306 ₹7

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DH

DECCAN HERALD

The Power of Good

Sale of RCB gathers fresh momentum

United Spirits to initiate 'strategic review' of investment in franchise

Page 16

New York elects Indian-origin Mamdani as mayor

Zohran Mamdani (2nd from R) with his wife Rama Duwaji (2nd from L) and his father Mahmood Mamdani and mother Mira Nair, in New York, on Tuesday night. AP/PTI

First South Asian, Muslim to administer the city

NEW YORK, PTI

Zohran Mamdani, the 34-year-old Indian-origin democratic socialist, pulled off a stunning victory in the fiercely contested New York city mayoral elections, riding on an electrifying campaign to become the first South Asian, Muslim and youngest in a century to helm the administration of the world's financial capital.

Mamdani, the son of Indian filmmaker Mira Nair and Indian-origin scholar Mahmood Mamdani, defeated former New York Governor Andrew Cuomo, a scandal-hit Democrat who ran as an independent, and Republican nominee Curtis Sliwa, in the closely watched contest.

Mamdani described his victory as the dawn of a "new age" for New York and said "together, we will usher in a generation of change".

▸ Mamdani, Page 6
Related reports, P10 &12

VOTES GARNERED

- 50%+ Zohran Mamdani (Democrat)
- 40%+ Andrew Cuomo (Independent)
- 7% Curtis Sliwa (Republican)

> New York will remain a city of immigrants: a city built by immigrants, powered by immigrants, and, as of tonight, led by an immigrant. So hear me, President Trump, when I say this: to get to any of us, you will have to get through all of us
>
> **ZOHRAN MAMDANI,** New York mayor-elect

Rahul's 'H' bomb claim

- Repeated use of a Brazilian model's photograph
- UP leaders registered as voters in Haryana
- 5.21 lakh voters with the same name and age in same seat
- 1.2 lakh entries where voters share the same photograph but with different names and details

Rahul: BJP, EC did 'sarkar chori' during Haryana elections

Cong leader alleges 25 lakh fake entries were made in electoral rolls

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi during a press conference in New Delhi on Wednesday. PTI

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

After his claims of 'vote chori' in Karnataka's Mahadevapura and Aland, top Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday stepped up his attack on the BJP and Election Commission, alleging 'sarkar chori' (stealing government) in Haryana with 25 lakh "fake" entries in the rolls, including what he claimed were repeated use of a Brazilian model's photograph and UP leaders registering as voters in the state.

An 'FAQ' shared by Congress called the expose a "hydrogen bomb on democracy" even as the Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha accused the EC of being in partnership with PM Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah to "destroy the democratic foundation" of the country and "systematically" helping the BJP.

Even as Rahul said he would be back with a similar presentation on Bihar claiming that 'vote chori' will happen, the Election Commission asked why Congress Booth Level Agents in Haryana did not file objections while Union Minister Kiren Rijiju alleged that the Congress leader was in collusion with anti-India forces while "making false and illogical claims" to hide his failures.

At his third press conference on 'vote chori' in three months, Rahul alleged five methods as part of a "centralised effort" to "convert the landslide victory" of his party "into a loss" in Haryana.

Playing a video of Haryana CM Nayab Singh Saini saying two days before counting that the BJP would win and that "we have a 'vyavastha' (system) in place", he said, "what exactly is this 'vyavastha' and it includes duplicate voters, invalid addresses, bulk voters in single addresses, adding voters who are also registered in other states and targeted deletions."

▸ Rahul, Page 6

BJP: Attempt to defame India

Dismissing Rahul Gandhi's claims of vote theft in the Haryana Assembly polls as "false and baseless", the ruling BJP on Wednesday accused the Congress leader of raising questions on the Election Commission (EC) to hide his failures and defame India's democracy.

Details on Page 10

EC: Why flaws not flagged earlier?

Rahul Gandhi's vote manipulation charge is "unfounded" as no appeals were filed against the electoral rolls in Haryana, nor was any multiple voting flagged when it happened, Election Commission officials said on Wednesday.

Details on Page 10

State plans quota for people with disabilities in education, pvt jobs

DH EXCLUSIVE

SUJAY B M
BENGALURU, DHNS

In a major policy move aimed at inclusion, the Labour Department is preparing a Bill that provides up to 10% reservation in educational institutions and up to 5% reservation in private sector employment to Persons with Disabilities (PwDs).

The 10% reservation in education applies to government and private institutions. The Centre's Right of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 (RPwD Act) requires "not less than 4% reservation" for persons with benchmark disabilities. It mandates "not less than 5% reservation" in government higher education institutions.

However, there are no such quotas for PwDs in the private sector. According to population projections for 2025, Karnataka has over 20 lakh PwDs.

"This project is close to my heart. They (PwDs) also have a fundamental right. While Article 14 guarantees equality to everyone, Articles 16 (1) and (4) mandate equal opportunities in public employment and allows quota for disadvantaged groups. Article 41 directs the state to secure the right to work, education and public assistance for PwDs. There must be an administrative framework where will they fit in," Labour Minister Santosh Lad said.

DH has accessed the concept note, which will be discussed in the Cabinet on Thursday. After an approval, the Bill will be prepared, and may be tabled in the Winter Session of the Legislature.

▸ Reservation, Page 6

INCLUSIVE BILL

- Up to 10% quota in education applies to govt, pvt institutions
- Proposes carry forward of seats if there are no suitable candidates
- Likely to be discussed in today's Cabinet

Santosh Lad

HC: Centre has control over Namma Metro

BENGALURU, DHNS: The high court has ruled that the Centre has pervasive control over Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd, with the state government playing second fiddle.

The court gave the ruling while stating that the state has no competence to notify BMRCL services as 'public utility service' under Section 2(n)(vi) of the Industrial Disputes Act and as 'essential service' under Section 2(1) of the Karnataka Essential Services Maintenance Act. "The state has significant roles to play in BMRCL but the final say in key administrative actions is with the Centre," the court ruled.

Details on Page 2

First phase of Bihar poll battle today; 3.75 cr voters in 121 seats

ABHAY KUMAR
PATNA

Bihar is all set for the first phase of the high-stakes Assembly polls on Thursday, with 3.75 crore voters in 121 constituencies eligible to decide the fate of 1,314 candidates.

BIHAR VOTES

While polling will be held from 7 am to 6 pm, the process will be over by 5 pm in certain naxalism-affected areas as a security measure.

Besides Patna, all eyes will be on Raghopur, the VIP constituency in Vaishali district, from where Tejashwi Yadav, the Mahagathbandhan chief ministerial face, is contesting for the third time. If he romps home, it will be a hat-trick for the former deputy chief minister from the constituency, which has been earlier represented by his father Lalu Prasad twice and mother Rabri Devi thrice. Both Lalu and Rabri served as Bihar CM after being elected from Raghopur.

Equally interesting is the nearby Mahua from where Lalu's elder son Tej Pratap is in the fray as the nominee of Janshakti Janata Dal, a newly floated outfit. Tej Pratap, who was expelled from the RJD as well as the family, is ploughing a lonely furrow from the Yadav-dominated constituency.

▸ Bihar polls, Page 6
Related reports, Page 7

Officials leave for election duty on the eve of the first phase of Assembly polls, in Patna, on Wednesday. PTI

Swamala Rojana
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AI won't hit jobs: Niti Aayog CEO

Artificial Intelligence will not remove jobs, some tasks will be removed, but it will create new tasks, said Niti Aayog CEO B V R Subrahmanyam. "Certain jobs which were not available six months ago, have come up," he said at the Bengaluru Skill Summit 2025 on Wednesday.

Details on Page 3

ON PAGE 3

- Ready to set up inclusive incubator for skilling specially abled: Priyank Kharge
- Hubballi-based startup builds intelligent robots
- Leveraging tech to scale up skills
- 3 Ministers attend summit

Nandini ghee price up by Rs 90/litre

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Karnataka Milk Federation (KMF) has increased the price of Nandini ghee by Rs 90 per litre and butter by Rs 26 per kg. With the increase in prices, the cost of one litre of ghee stands at Rs 700 and one kg of butter at Rs 570.

Recently, owing to the slash in GST slabs, the price of Nandini ghee had come down from Rs 640 to Rs 610 per litre.

Details on Page 5

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Casagrand Premier Builder Limited is proposing, subject to receipt of requisite approvals, market conditions and other considerations, to make an initial public offer of its equity shares and has filed a draft red herring prospectus ("DRHP") with the Securities and Exchange Board of India ("SEBI"). The DRHP is available on the website of our Company, at [www.casagrand.co.in], the SEBI at www.sebi.gov.in as well as on the websites of the book running lead managers, JM Financial Limited, and Motilal Oswal Investment Advisors Limited at www.jmfl.com, and www.motilaloswalgroup.com respectively, and the websites of the stock exchange(s) at www.nseindia.com and www.bseindia.com, respectively. Any potential investor should note that investment in equity shares involves a high degree of risk and for details relating to such risk, see "Risk Factors" of the RHP, when available. Potential investors should not rely on the DRHP for any investment decision.

New BMTC bus service

BENGALURU, DHNS: The BMTC on Tuesday introduced a non-AC bus route (215-HA) connecting Kembathalli (Lal Bahadru Shastri Nagar) and Majestic via Jamboo Savari Dinne, Puttenahalli Cross, Jayanagar Bus Stand, Vijaya College and Corporation Circle.

Two buses will be deployed on this route, making 24 one-way trips daily.

◆ IN THE CITY ◆

GENERAL

Conference: On 'Reuse of treated water'; Organised by Niti Aayog and BWSSB; DK Shivakumar, Shalini Rajaneesh, and Ramprasat Manohar V to take part; Hotel Shangri-La; 9.30 am onwards.

Free blood donation camp: Organised by Upadhya and company, Ananda Balaga; Uday Garudachar and Sridhar Mayya to participate; Sankarshana auditorium, Poornima Regency, Hombegowda Nagar; from 10 am onwards.

India manufacturing show: Organised by IMS foundation; Rajnath Singh, HD Kumaraswamy, and Prahlad Joshi to participate; Bangalore International Exhibition Centre, Tumakuru Road; from 11 am onwards.

CULTURAL

Inter-college competition: On model Loksabha; Organised by Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) and Rotary Bengaluru Peenya; YMCA, Nrupathunga Road; 9.30 am.

Hoteliers, citizens hail HC verdict on food safety

Say demand for size-based rules recognised

BENGALURU, DHNS

The court's move to extend health and safety norms to street vendors and food trucks wins public praise.
FILE PHOTO

City hoteliers have welcomed the Karnataka High Court's directive to the Centre to classify restaurants as small, medium, and large for implementing the regulations.

They felt this could improve hygiene conditions in many hotels.

"This is a positive step — our demand for more reasonable, size-based rules has been recognised, and future policies are expected to be more business-friendly and easier for everyone to follow," said PC Rao, President of the Bruhat Bengaluru Hoteliers Association (BBHA).

This will help both hoteliers and customers, a hotelier said.

"The classification will help set practical standards. A small hotel cannot follow the norms laid out for a five-star hotel. While it ensures the safety and hygiene of customers, it will also set norms that can be followed by that category of hotelier," yet another hotelier said.

The court's decision to introduce health and safety regulations for all street vendors and food trucks has also garnered appreciation from the public.

"Street food is affordable and tasty. Hence, many of us prefer it. However, hygiene is a major concern since we are not sure if they follow any practices, as they are not bound by any laws. This new direction by the high court could instill some sense of responsibility among them, encouraging them to follow hygiene standards," said Prathibha K, a resident of Malleswaram.

However, many street food vendors said that the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) had already provided them with some basic training and that they ensure basic hygiene standards are followed.

"We may not be able to follow as many hygiene standards as hotels. However, we also ensure that basic hygiene is not compromised. I think we are already doing the best we can," said Shanthappa, who sells chaat in Sahakarnagar.

Centre has control over Namma Metro: HC

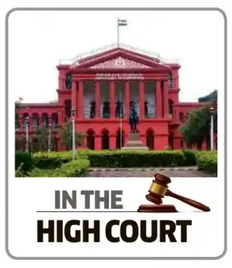
Court says state govt plays second fiddle

BENGALURU, DHNS

In a significant ruling, the High Court of Karnataka has held that the union government exercises pervasive control over the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL), with the state government playing a secondary role.

The court said the state government lacks competence to notify BMRCL services as a 'public utility service' under Section 2(n)(vi) of the Industrial Disputes Act and as an 'essential service' under Section 2(l) of the Karnataka Essential Services Maintenance Act.

"It is indeed true that the state government, which has 50% shareholding like the central government, has certain significant roles to play in BMRCL. However, the final say in key administrative actions is that of the central government, and the state government has to take approvals or concurrence from the central government in certain crucial administrative decisions," Justice Ananth Ramanath Hegde stated.



The court was hearing petitions filed by the Centre, BMRCL, and the BMRCL Employees' Union. Justice Hegde said the Central Government Industrial Tribunal shall proceed to adjudicate the reference.

The union had challenged the BMRCL Employees (Conduct, Discipline and Appeal) Rules, 2014, arguing that the appropriate government for BMRCL is the union government. It sought to restrain the state from granting exemption under Section 14 of the Industrial Employment Standing Orders Act, 1946. BMRCL, however, contended that its employees mostly perform specialised supervisory roles and therefore are not workmen, seeking exemption under Section 14.

The Centre maintained that the state has no jurisdiction to declare BMRCL services as 'Essential Services,' since metro rail falls under the Union List governed by the Metro Railways (Construction of Works) Act, 1978, and the Metro Railways (Operation and Maintenance) Act, 2002.

The state government termed the petition premature, stating that BMRCL's application seeking exemption under Section 14 was still under consideration.

After examining the provisions, the court observed that metro railways are governed by central legislations. "The state government, which is in charge of several operations of metro railway, has to act in establishing, maintaining and operating the railway only after necessary approval or concurrence of the central government," Justice Hegde said.

The court further held that BMRCL qualifies as a 'railway company' under the Industrial Disputes Act since it was established to build, operate, and maintain the metro railway under a Memorandum of Understanding executed among BMRCL, the Centre, and the state.

"To sum up, the court is of the view that the central government is the 'appropriate government' for two reasons: the central government has pervasive control over the BMRCL; BMRCL is a 'railway company' as defined under Section 2(o) of Act, 1947, read with Section 3(5) of the Indian Railways Act, 1890," Justice Hegde said.

Special trains from Bengaluru to Bihar

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Eastern Railway will operate special trains connecting Bengaluru and cities in Bihar to clear the extra rush of passengers.

Train number 03403 will depart from Bhagalpur at 10.30 pm on November 7 and arrive at Yeshwantpur at 11.50 pm on November 9 via KR Puram and SMVT Bengaluru.

Train number 03404 will depart from Yeshwantpur at 7 am on November 10 and reach Bhagalpur at 7.30 am on November 12 via Yelahanka.

Both trains will be unreserved.

◆ CITY WEATHER ◆

FORECAST

Generally cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain or thundershowers

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	28.0°C
Minimum	21.0°C
Rainfall (as of 8:30 am)	--
Humidity (as of 5:30 pm)	77%
Sunset (Nov 6)	5:52 pm
Sunrise (Nov 7)	6:15 am
Moonrise	5:36 pm
Moonset	5:424 am

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

Invites to be published in this column should be sent to: **incitytoday @deccanherald.co.in.** Please note that hard copies will not be accepted

Police raid EPF Credit Co-op over financial fraud

BENGALURU, DHNS: Cubbon Park police on Tuesday raided the houses of two accused in the EPF Staff Credit Co-operative Society financial misappropriation case.

Hakay Akshay Machindra, DCP (Central), said the raids were carried out based on a court-issued search warrant at the residences of CEO Gopinath and his staff Lakshmi, both of whom were arrested soon after the FIR was filed.

"We will not disclose more details since the case is under investigation," the DCP said.

The EPF Staff Credit Co-operative Society, located on Rajaram Mohan Roy Road, was among several premises searched, including houses in RR Nagar, JP Nagar, and Anjanapura.

Police seized seven cars, 12 two-wheelers, and gold ornaments worth crores, sources said.

An FIR was registered on November 1 against Gopinath and accountant Jagadish following a complaint by Muralidhara CJ, president of the society. Muralidhara alleged that scrutiny of bank accounts, transaction records, and administrative activities revealed illegal transfer of funds from certain accounts.

TURNING THE TIDE

IISc develops method to upscale fishing nets, automotive parts

AMULLYA SHIVASHANKAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

A new study from the Department of Materials Engineering (MatE), Indian Institute of Science (IISc), has developed a method to turn plastic from fishing nets and automotive parts into material with renewable properties.

The plastic in these products is nylon 66. When exposed to changing weather conditions, it breaks down into microplastics that can enter the ocean and disrupt the health of coastal life.

The research team led by Professor Suryasarathi Bose collaborated with Chime Polymers Pvt Ltd, a Chennai-based company that collected the fishing nets and converted them into plastic pellets. These were further converted into road dividers, boat hulls, and park benches by a startup, VoiLa 3D, co-founded by Bose.

"We tried chemical recycling, but it involves a lot of time and is not environment friendly. So, we adopted mechanical recycling," Bose told *DH*.

The polymer is melted, and, during that process, melamine and a zinc-based catalyst are added to create an improved and upcycled version of the polymer. It is later 3D printed into any desired product. The final product can also be recycled.

Wasted fishing nets find new life as boat hulls.
PHOTO: PROF SURYASARATHI BOSE

The process of melting and upcycling takes less than two minutes and 3D printing takes time depending on the product.

"This can also be an employment opportunity for people living along the coastline. The process is simple, and the chemicals used are affordable," explained Bose.

The UN Environment Programme says humans produce over 430 million tonnes of plastics annually, and material waste from fishing is one of the most dangerous forms, threatening the lives of countless marine creatures.

Improved recycling processes for polymers like PA-66 can give used plastic a new lease of life, while also incentivising waste collection, Bose added.

PUBLIC NOTICE

We are undertaking a title investigation on the immovable properties more fully described in the '**Schedule**' hereto and hereinafter referred to as '**Schedule Properties**'. The said title due diligence is being conducted for and on behalf of our Client who is desirous of entering into a transaction with respect to the Schedule Properties from its present owner **Mr. P.V. Mathai, son of Mr. P.U. Varghese** (hereinafter referred to as the '**Owner**'). The Owner has represented to our Client that he is the absolute owner of the Schedule Properties, with unrestricted rights of alienation over the same.

Notice is hereby given to the general public that any person/s other than the Owner, asserting any right, title, charge, lien, claim/s or any interest whatsoever in respect of the Schedule Properties are hereby called upon to submit to the undersigned, their claim/s, if any, over the Schedule Properties or submit their objections, if any, to the aforementioned transaction. The said claim/s or objections must be in writing, together with documentary proof to support such claim/s or objections and must be delivered to us at the address given below within a period of **10 (Ten) days** from the date of publication of this Notice. If no such claim/s or objections are received, it shall be deemed that no one else other than the present owner has any right, title, interest or claim whatsoever in respect of the Schedule Properties and our Client would be at liberty to proceed with the said transaction in connection with the Schedule Properties.

SCHEDULE

(Description of the Schedule Properties)

All that piece and parcel of the immovable properties converted for non-agricultural purposes, admeasuring **14 Acres 03 Guntas** (excluding 3 ½ Guntas of 'B' kharab land), situated at **Doddathoguru Village, Beguru Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore Urban District,** described in the table below:

Sl. No.	Survey Number	Extent (excluding 'B' kharab land)	Conversion Status	Boundaries	
1	87/1	2 Acres	Residential	East by	Land bearing Survey No. 81;
				West by	Land bearing Survey No. 88;
				North by	Land bearing Survey No. 80; and
				South by	Land bearing Survey Nos. 87/2, 87/4, 87/5, 87/6, 87/7 and 87/8.
2	87/2	18¾ Guntas	Industrial	East by	Land bearing Survey No. 87/4;
				West by	Land bearing Survey No. 88;
				North by	Land bearing Survey No. 87/1; and
				South by	Land bearing Survey No. 87/3.
3	87/4 (earlier part of Survey No.87/2)	18¾ Guntas	Industrial	East by	Land bearing Survey No. 87/5;
				West by	Land bearing Survey No. 87/2;
				North by	Land bearing Survey No. 87/1; and
				South by	Land bearing Survey No. 87/3.
4	87/5 (earlier part of Survey No.87/2)	18¾ Guntas	Industrial	East by	Land bearing Survey No. 87/6;
				West by	Land bearing Survey No. 87/4;
				North by	Land bearing Survey No. 87/1; and
				South by	Land bearing Survey No. 87/3.
5	87/6 (earlier part of Survey No.87/2)	18½ Guntas	Industrial	East by	Land bearing Survey No. 87/7;
				West by	Land bearing Survey No. 87/5;
				North by	Land bearing Survey No. 87/1; and
				South by	Land bearing Survey No. 87/3.
6	87/7 (earlier part of Survey No.87/2)	18¾ Guntas	Industrial	East by	Land bearing Survey No. 87/8;
				West by	Land bearing Survey No. 87/6;
				North by	Land bearing Survey No. 87/1; and
				South by	Land bearing Survey No. 87/9.
7	87/8 (earlier part of Survey No.87/2)	18½ Guntas	Industrial	East by	Land bearing Survey No. 81;
				West by	Land bearing Survey No. 87/7;
				North by	Land bearing Survey No. 87/1; and
				South by	Land bearing Survey No. 87/9.
8	88/1	1 Acre 35 Guntas (excluding 1 Gunta of 'B' kharab land)	Residential	East by	Land bearing Survey Nos. 88/2 and 88/4;
				West by	Land bearing Survey No. 156;
				North by	Land bearing Survey No. 89/2A; and
				South by	Land bearing Survey No. 101.
9	88/2	16 Guntas	Residential	East by	Land bearing Survey No. 87;
				West by	Land bearing Survey No.88/1;
				North by	Land bearing Survey No. 89/2B; and
				South by	Land bearing Survey Nos. 88/3 and 88/4.
10	88/3	1 Acre 12 Guntas (excluding ½ Gunta of 'B' kharab land)	Residential	East by	Land bearing Survey No. 87;
				West by	Land bearing Survey No. 88/4;
				North by	Land bearing Survey No. 88/2; and
				South by	Land bearing Survey No. 101.
11	88/4	1 Acre 11 Guntas (excluding ½ Gunta of 'B' kharab land)	Residential	East by	Land bearing Survey No. 88/3;
				West by	Land bearing Survey No. 88/1;
				North by	Land bearing Survey No. 88/2; and
				South by	Land bearing Survey No. 101.
12	89/1	1 Acre 37 Guntas (out of 3 Acres 34 Guntas, excluding 1 ½ Guntas of 'B' kharab land)	Residential	East by	Land bearing Survey Nos. 89/3 and 89/4;
				West by	Remaining portion of land bearing Survey No. 89/1;
				North by	Land bearing Survey No. 91; and
				South by	Land bearing Survey Nos. 89/2A and 89/2B.
13.	89/2A	1 Acre 10 Guntas	Residential	East by	Land bearing Survey No. 89/2B;
				West by	Land bearing Survey No. 90;
				North by	Land bearing Survey No. 89/1; and
				South by	Land bearing Survey No. 88/1.
14.	89/2B	10 Guntas	Residential	East by	Land bearing Survey No. 89/3;
				West by	Land bearing Survey No. 89/2A;
				North by	Land bearing Survey No. 89/1; and
				South by	Land bearing Survey No. 88/2.
15.	89/3	20 Guntas	Residential	East by	Road and Land bearing Survey No. 80;
				West by	Land bearing Survey No. 89/1;
				North by	Land bearing Survey No. 89/4; and
				South by	Land bearing Survey No. 89/2B.
16.	89/4	20 Guntas	Residential	East by	Land bearing Survey No. 80;
				West by	Land bearing Survey No. 89/1;
				North by	Land bearing Survey No. 91; and
				South by	Land bearing Survey No. 89/3.

Sd/-
MR. SRINIVAS B.R., Partner
DSK Legal
Prestige Loka, No. 201, 2nd Floor, No. 7/1 & 7/7,
Brunton Road, Bengaluru – 560025, Tel: 080-69548770

Date: 06.11.2025
Place : Bengaluru

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice

Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Bangalore Division of South Western Railway, for and on behalf of the President of India, invited bidders for development Gati Shakti Multi- Modal Cargo Terminals (GCT) either entirely or partially on Railway land at Hanakere Station in Bengaluru Division on IREPS.

Last date for Submission of bids :
Upto 15.00 hrs on 28.11.2025

For details log on : **www.ireps.gov.in**

Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Bengaluru
PUB/615/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2025-26

Download the **UTS Moblie App** from **Google Play Store** for ease of booking of unreserved tickets

South Western Railway - SWR @SWRRLY @SWRAILWAYHQ @sw_railways

CENTRAL RAILWAY

SOLAPUR DIVISION

E-TENDER NOTICE

DRM (S&T)'s Office, Central Railway, Solapur for and on behalf of The President of India invites online e-tenders on Railways e-procurement website **www.ireps.gov.in** from the capable, reputed firms/Contractors for the following works. **Name of Work with its Locality:** Provision of long-Haul loop lines at Akkalkot Road and Malthan stations of Solapur Division. **Approximate Cost of the Work:** ₹11,18,42,343.10. **Cost of Tender Form:** NIL. **Earnest Money to be Deposited**: ₹7,09,200/-. **Completion Period of the Work:** 12 Months. **Date & Time of Closing of Tender : 26/11/2025** after **15.30** Hrs. The details are available in IREPS website. Corrigendum/amendments if any will be uploaded only on above e-procurement website. Only online tenders will be accepted. Manual/ postal/e-mail, FAX, by hand tenders will not be accepted. Bidders are requested to obtain Class III Digital Signature Certificate with company name and register the same with **www.ireps.gov.in** The Payment of Earnest Money (EMD) will be accepted through net banking or payment gateway or in the form of Bank Guarantee and the original Bank Guarantee should be delivered in person to the official nominated as indicated in the tender document before closing date for submission of bids (i.e. excluding the last date of submission of bids). For further details please visit **www.ireps.gov.in**

DRM(S&T) Solapur

E-Tender Notice No.: SUR-N-T-2025-26-23 Date: 04/11/2025

अनाधिकृत रुप से रेल लाइन को पार करना दंडनीय अपराध है

SailSUR/61

SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE

TENDER NO: 17-CEE-C-SECR-2025, dtd. 31.10.2025

Name of Work: "Preparation of GPSD, Sectioning cum wiring diagram and SWR for the section of (i) Rawghat- Jagdalpur new line, (ii) Baloda Bazar- Parmalkasa 5th & 6th line, (iii) Bilaspur- Dadhapara 4th line, (iv) Dagori- Nipania 4th line, (v) Hathbandh- Baikunth 4th Line, (vi) Baikunth- Urkura 4th line, (vii) Urkura-RSD doubling, (viii) Sarona-Bhilai 4th line (ix) Durg Link Block Station- Durg 4th line and (x) Durg-Rajnandgaon 4th line in Raipur & Nagpur division over S.E.C.Railway". **Tender Value: Rs. 17,66,788.20** (Rupees Seventeen lakh Sixty Six Thousabd Seven Hundred Eighty Eight & Paise Twenty) Only. **EMD: Rs. 35,300/-** (Rupees Thirty Five Thousand Three Hundred Only), **Date & Time of Tender Closing:** At **15:30** Hrs. on **25.11.2025**, **Date & Time of Tender Opening**: At **15:45** Hrs. on **25.11.2025**, **Completion Period: 0**6 (Six) Months from the date of issue of LOA.

Website particulars & notice board location: For further details/related to e-tender document, eligibility criteria and the complete details for the above work, please refer/download tender document which is available on our website- **www.ireps.gov.in**.

Astt. Exec. Elec. Engineer (Con)
S.E.C.Railway, Raipur

CPR/10/429

South East Central Railway @secrail

PUBLIC NOTICE

CAUTION NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that the below mentioned properties owned by **Ghanshyam Lal Agarwal**, S/o Shiv Narain Agarwal, R/o No. 460, 6th cross, 4th Main, J.P. Nagar III phase, Bangalore – 560078, Karnataka, Partner of Spectro Alloys and Pigments, are the subject matter of COP No.106/2025 on the file of the Hon'ble Additional Special Court in Cadre of District Judge for Trial and Disposal of Commercial Disputes at City Civil Court, Hyderabad and the Hon'ble Court has granted interim orders dt.15/07/2025 in COP No.106/2025 restraining him from alienating the same. The general public is hereby cautioned not to enter into any transaction of sale / purchase with regard to the below properties as any transaction would not only be void but expose them to civil and criminal consequences.

Schedule 'A' Property

All that piece and parcel of Residential Apartment Unit bearing No. 302 (Municipal No. 545/4th Block, Koramangala Extension, Bangalore, in Old BMP Ward No. 68, New BBMP Ward No. 151, bearing Old PID No. 65-6-545, New PID No. 151-W0271-74), situated on the Third Floor of the Residential Apartment Building known as "TRINITY GREENS", having a super built-up area of 2700 Sq. Ft. with a terrace area of 400 Sq. Ft. (which is inclusive of a proportionate share in the common areas, balconies, passages, lobbies, staircases and other areas of Common Use, etc.), with two car parking spaces bearing No. 302, along with an undivided share of 737 Sq. Ft. in the Residential Apartment Building Premises and bounded as under:

- **East:** Property No. 544, Block IV, Koramangala Extension
- **West:** Property No. 546, Block IV, Koramangala Extension
- **North:** Property No. 587, Block IV, Koramangala Extension
- **South:** Road

Schedule 'B' Property

All that piece and parcel of Site No. 40, Khatha No. 165/112/113 STNO 40, having Panchayat e-Khatha No. 150300201400100327, forming portion of Khatha No. 112 and 113 in the private layout known as "RAJANI FARMS" in Sy. No. 40/1 and 40/2 (duly converted for non-agricultural residential purposes vide Official Memorandum bearing No. B.DIS.W.ALN/SR.(D)6 and 7/1992-93 dated 28.05.1992), situated at Rayasandra Village, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District, situated within the limits of Bettakote Panchayat, site measuring East to West – 17.684 Mtrs or 58 Feet and North to South – 30.48 Mtrs or 100 Feet, in all measuring 538.84 Sq. Mtrs or 5,800 Sq. Ft., and bounded as under:

- **East:** Site No. 39
- **West:** Site No. 41
- **North:** Site No. 29
- **South:** Road

Sd/-
Hirendernath, Anand and Praveen (Advocates)
Maruti Nivas, H.No.8-2-402/A/1/2, Road No.5, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad - 500034, TG.

TRASH BACKLASH

Kannada activist Vatal Nagaraj dumps garbage outside the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) office in Bengaluru on Wednesday. The protest was in response to a recent plan by the Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Ltd (BSWML) to return dumped waste to households identified as 'habitual litterbugs'.

Indian Horticulture Congress begins today

BENGALURU, DHNS: The 11th Indian Horticulture Congress (IHC) and International Meet began on Wednesday at the University of Agricultural Sciences (UAS), GKVK campus. The four-day event will be on till Sunday.

Organised by the Indian Academy of Horticultural Sciences (IAHS), New Delhi, in association with UAS Bengaluru, University of Horticultural Sciences, Bagalkot, and the Indian Institute of Horticultural Research, Bengaluru, with support from the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, the event will bring together scientists, policymakers, entrepreneurs, students, research scholars, and farmer representatives to deliberate on 11 themes, the press release said.

Kumar Karamadi (left) at the exhibition.

Hubballi-based startup builds intelligent robots

BENGALURU, DHNS: From front desk assistant bots to smart farming using AI, Hubballi-based startup ATS (Abhyudyaya Techno Solutions) works across Robotics and Automation, edge computing and embedded systems.

Three robots caught the attention of visitors at the Bengaluru Skill Summit Exhibition here on Wednesday.

Kumar Karamadi, founder of ATS, is focused on building innovative solutions that contribute to skill development and industrial growth.

"Our vision is to empower the future workforce by bridging the gap between education and industry," he said. His startup provides solutions for skill development departments, technical institutes and industries working in cutting-edge technologies.

"Today, colleges are rapidly adopting AI, but most are limited to software and model training aspects. However, industries need professionals who can deliver end-to-end AI-based solutions integrated with hardware and real-time systems. To address this, we are setting up Centres of Excellence in AI and IoT where students gain hands-on skills in Machine Learning and Deep Learning, Edge AI and Embedded Processing, Generative AI, Robotics and Smart IoT Solutions," he said.

The 26-member team startup has designed and developed edge-based AI applications in agriculture, healthcare, manufacturing, and automotive sectors.

AI not going to remove jobs, it will create new tasks: NITI Aayog CEO

Skilling not seen as part of education, he rues

UMA KANNAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

"Artificial Intelligence (AI) is not going to remove jobs; it is going to remove roles. Some tasks will be removed, but it will create new tasks," said NITI Aayog CEO B V R Subrahmanyam.

Delivering the keynote address at the Bengaluru Skill Summit 2025 here on Wednesday, he said, "We did a mapping. There are certain jobs which were actually not available or being asked for six months ago. They are now the top-searched jobs on the internet. These jobs didn't exist six months ago, and now they have come up. So, there will be a complete change in skill profile".

Recently, NITI Aayog in its report said AI has the potential to create up to 4 million new jobs.

Subrahmanyam stressed on the need to create an 'AI Talent Mission', where AI is embedded in the entire education system.

Niti Aayog CEO B V R Subrahmanyam delivers the keynote address at the Bengaluru Skill Summit 2025 on Wednesday.

He said skilling is somehow still treated as some kind of an extracurricular activity, and that's the root of the problem.

"Skilling is not seen as a part of education. If education is not skilling, then what is it?" he asked, emphasising the need for people who are productively employed.

Only 4% of India's workforce is skilled, and the average is 80 to 90% around the world.

"You are expecting this workforce to produce the most complicated products that are there in the world. If you do not have a well-educated, well-skilled workforce, you are going to have a lot of people in low-paying jobs," he said.

The NITI Aayog CEO stressed on the need to have counselling systems to help students make informed career choices.

"We always look at skilling as something opposed to education, or skilling as an add-on to education; we are looking at skilling as something, as an extracurricular activity outside of education. If you want to become the global talent capital, we need to integrate education and skill and it's to be done very early on," he said.

Leveraging tech to scale up skills

BENGALURU, DHNS

Innovation can make skilling more efficient and scalable, said experts at a session on Leveraging Technology to Scale Skills. Focusing on sustainability, they said technology should be an enabler and improve delivery at the same time, and it should ensure quality at scale.

Ishvinder Singh, Head, India and SAARC, Cisco Networking Academy, said that they will be launching an AI assessment. "In the learning space, we have introduced a lot of AI tech," said Singh, explaining how technology is being used to scale skilling."

Prof Venkappayya R Desai, Director, IIT Dharwad, said technology is for achieving three things: improving the quality of life, including schools, hospitals; technology for resource optimisation as resources are limited; and sustainability.

"Technology leads to new things and there is a possibility that newly adopted technology leads to unsustainable practices," he said, stressing the need for sustainability.

Arvind Vaishnav, Head of Philips Innovation Campus (PIC), Bengaluru, Royal Philips, said that when we think of technology for scaling skills, it should be transformative and exponential. "When we design a product, we keep in mind who is going to use it," he said.

Speaking at the session, Nikita Bengani, Director, Youth Program, Quest Alliance, said, since there are hundreds of solutions out there, learners need more personalised learning.

Ready to set up inclusive incubator for skilling specially abled: Priyank

'We position ourselves as skill capital, knowledge destination'

BENGALURU, DHNS

IT-BT, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Minister Priyank Kharge on Wednesday announced that the government was open to set up an inclusive incubator for skilling, re-skilling and up-skilling of the differently abled.

The minister extended an open invitation for industries which are interested in joining hands.

He was speaking at the interactive session organised at the Bengaluru Skill Summit-2025.

"Why don't we start an inclusive incubator and centre of excellence to skill up the specially abled? We have the Bengaluru Tech Summit starting from November 18, can I get a proposal on this before 15?," he asked industry representatives present at the summit.

He said the departments of women and child development, information technology and skill development should come together and work this out.

"We no longer pitch Karnataka as an investment destination. We are unique because we position ourselves as a skill capital and knowledge destination. We can't promise everybody employment, but we can make them employable," he said.

3 ministers in attendance

Three ministers - Dr M C Sudhakar (higher education), Dr Sharan Prakash Patil (medical education and skill development) and Priyank Kharge stressed on the importance of revisiting the curriculum, with industry intervention.

Dr Sudhakar said engineering, humanities and other courses were not as skilled as medical and allied courses.

"Industry is looking for lots of skills and we are also trying to skill them during the course duration. We are trying for overall development and building confidence among students and making them ready to face the challenges. We are also revisiting the curriculum as per industry demands," he said.

Sharan Prakash Patil said there was a need to incorporate certain things in the curriculum.

"Industry must closely work with the government to design curriculum. There needs to be structural changes in the curriculum".

Kharge requested the industries to apprise on the skill sets needed to be added in the curriculum.

"You give us your curriculum based on the skill sets," he said.

GOVERNMENT OF MEGHALAYA
HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE DEPARTMENT

APPOINTMENT OF FACULTY - PROFESSORS AND ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS

Applications are invited from eligible Indian citizens for filling up posts of **Teaching Faculty positions at Shillong Medical College, Shillong**, under the Health & Family Welfare Department, Government of Meghalaya.

Vacancies exist for the following posts across various disciplines as per National Medical Commission Teachers' Eligibility Qualifications (TEQ) Regulations, 2025:

Department	Professors	Associate Professors
1. Anatomy	Nil	1
2. Physiology	1	1
3. Pharmacology	1	Nil
4. Pathology	1	Nil
5. Microbiology	Nil	1
6. Forensic Medicine	1	Nil
7. General Surgery	1	Nil
8. Obstetrics & Gynaecology	1	Nil

Terms and Conditions

1. **Nature of Appointment:** The appointments shall be made on a **contractual basis**, initially for a period of **one year**, extendable based on performance and requirement of the College.
2. **Remuneration:**
   - **Professor:** ₹3,20,000/- per month (fixed)
   - **Associate Professor:** ₹2,60,000/- per month (fixed)
   No additional allowances or benefits shall be admissible.
3. **Eligibility:** Candidates must possess the requisite qualifications and teaching experience as prescribed by the National Medical Commission (NMC), TEQ 2025 or as amended from time to time. A proven record of academic excellence, clinical competence and research experience will be essential.
4. **Mode of Application:** Eligible and interested candidates may submit their applications **by e-mail** to: **shgmedicalcollege@gmail.com**
5. **Last Date for Submission:** The online application window shall remain open **till 20th November 2025, up to 5:00 PM**.
6. **Further Details:** Detailed information regarding eligibility criteria, terms of engagement and selection procedures is available on the official website of the Health & Family Welfare Department: **https://meghealth.gov.in**

MIPR No.: 2058
Dated: 04-11-2025

Sd/- **Under Secretary to the Govt. of Meghalaya**
Health & Family Welfare Department

FORGOTTEN MONEY IN YOUR OLD BANK ACCOUNTS?

RBI will help you recover what's yours

Money in Inoperative Accounts (inactive for more than 2 years and up to 10 years) lying with your bank / Unclaimed Deposits (Beyond 10 years) is transferred to DEA Fund of RBI.
You or your legal heirs can claim it anytime.

3 EASY STEPS TO CLAIM YOUR MONEY

1. Visit any branch of your bank, even if it's not your regular branch
2. Submit a form with KYC documents (Aadhaar, Passport, Voter ID, or Driving Licence)
3. Receive your money with interest, if any, after verification

To find your unclaimed deposits

Search your bank's website or check RBI's UDGAM portal **(https://udgam.rbi.org.in)** covering 30 banks currently

Visit Special Camps on Unclaimed Assets being conducted in all districts across the country during October to December 2025

For more details,
visit **https://rbikehtahai.rbi.org.in**
For feedback, write to **rbikehtahai@rbi.org.in**
Official WhatsApp No.
99990 41935
Scan the QR code

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RESERVE BANK OF INDIA
www.rbi.org.in

NECC DAY

Late Dr. B. V. Rao
(1935-1996)

On his 90th Birth Anniversary,
we salute the Father of Indian Poultry Industry
Padmashree Dr. B. V. Rao, Who rose above and
beyond the call of duty and restructured
the Indian Poultry Industry as a modern,
Scientific Industry driven by technology.
On this occasion, we rededicate ourselves to
his dreams - making India
the No. 1 country
in the World of Poultry...

"My Egg, My Price, My Life"

NATIONAL EGG CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE
(Non-Government Public Charitable Trust)

The mangled remains of a car and a goods vehicle which were involved in a head-on collision in Bhalki taluk, Bidar district, on Wednesday. DH PHOTO

Four from Telangana killed in Bhalki accident

BHALKI (BIDAR DISTRICT), DHNS: Four people from Telangana were killed in a head-on collision between a car and a courier vehicle near Neelammana Tanda in the taluk on Wednesday morning.

While Rachappa Chandrappa (57), Naveen Sharnappa (30 and Kashinath Ramshetti (60), natives of Jagannathapur in Narayankhed taluk of Telangana, died on the spot, Nagaraj Kisthaiah (38) failed to respond to treatment and succumbed to injuries.

Two injured - the cargo vehicle driver and a passenger in the car - are being treated for grievous injuries at a private hospital in Bidar.

The victims were returning home after visiting Gangapur Dattatreya Temple in Kalaburagi district. The Dhannur police have registered a case and investigations are underway.

CID probe ordered into death of 3 tiger cubs from BRT Tiger Reserve

Workers of estate owned by TVS company in dock for viral video

CHIRANJEEVI KULKARNI
BENGALURU, DHNS

Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre on Wednesday ordered a CID probe into the death of three tiger cubs from the BRT Tiger Reserve even as three persons working at a coffee estate located within the protected area have admitted to shooting videos with one of the cubs.

The incident came to light earlier this week when two video clips showing two people "playing" with one of the cubs went viral on social media, triggering an uproar by conservationists.

The presence of humans close to the 10-day-old cubs has now been cited as the reason for the mother to abandon them, eventually leading to their death.

While the forest department said its officials were first informed about the incident on October 13, activists alleged that the estate workers had taken away the cubs for a few days prior to that date.

"Once we were notified, the cubs were cared for and their mother's scat (excreta) was applied on them, and they were kept where they were found. It is usual for cubs to wander around. The mother usually returns to feed the cubs, even when she is hungry. The three men's presence could have elicited either aggression or abandonment. Since the tigress is old, she may have left the scene," sources in the department said.

Of the about 50 camera traps set up to track the tiger movement inside the reserve, one picked up the mother on the second day. However, as heavy rain started pouring, the department shifted them to Koorgalli Rescue Centre near Mysuru, where two of them succumbed. The third cub died later, the sources said.

D S Preetam, identified as general manager of Emerald Haven, the coffee estate owned by the TVS company, along with manager M K Prakash and driver Jagadish have admitted to stepping down from their vehicle to "send aside a tiger cub" sitting on the Punajanur-Bedaguli road around 7 pm while travelling home from the estate.

In his "apology" letter to the assistant conservator of forest, Preetam said he shot the video in excitement and sent it to his friend DV Girish in Chikkamagalur. He stated that they waited for the mother for half an hour.

"I did not know that trying to move the cub is a crime. My lack of knowledge of the law has led to an inadvertent error. I request you to forgive me once," Preetam stated.

A forest officer expressed surprise at the trio's action. "Even though the estate workers have right of way, there are restrictions on their movement at night. They are not supposed to get down from the vehicle. A tiger senses the presence of a human several hundred metres away. They had put their own life in danger. The tigress in this case might not have shown aggression because she is old. In all these, three cubs have lost their lives," the officer said.

To a question on the action taken against the trio, BRT Tiger Reserve Director B S Sripati said the department was looking into the matter. "We have released the trio after they gave an undertaking that they will cooperate with the inquiry. Action will be initiated as per the law," he said.

Ordering the CID probe, Forest, Ecology and Environment Minister Eshwar Khandre said there were inconsistencies in the statements made by forest officials. "...Due to the differences in statements made by the BRT Division in the press statement and the statements made in the aftermath of the video clips going viral on social media, activists have raised a suspicion that the tigress might have been killed. Hence, we believe a CID probe is necessary," he said.

FERVOUR MARKS NANAK JAYANTI

Sikhs take part in a procession organised to mark Guru Nanak Jayanti in Bidar on Wednesday. DH PHOTO/LOKESH V BIRADAR

Health secy's letter on 'restructuring' draws staff ire, union warns of protest

BENGALURU, DHNS

A tussle has broken out between the health and family welfare department's principal secretary Harsh Gupta and the secretariat staff after the senior IAS officer wrote to the government flagging inefficiency and seeking a restructuring of the department.

His letter to the secretary of the department of personnel and administrative reforms, which called for timely clearance of staff-related files, restructuring of the department and better supervision by the officer currently serving as deputy secretary–1, has drawn sharp criticism from the Karnataka Government Secretariat Employees' Association, which accused him of making "baseless allegations and demoralising employees".

In the letter dated October 29, Gupta stated that since the health department provided emergency services to the public, it is important to keep the employees' morale high by ensuring that the files related to appointments, transfers, inquiries, pensions and court cases were processed as early and as efficiently as possible.

He also asked for an additional post to be created in the section handling matters of the health department.

"It is requested that competent officers or staff be posted in the section handling service matters in the department of health and family welfare, that officers selected through direct recruitment be appointed at the level of section officer or deputy secretary and that one additional post at the level of additional secretary be created in this department, and an IAS or senior KAS officer be immediately posted to this additional post," he wrote.

However, the Government Secretariat Employees' Association has urged Dinesh Gundu Rao, Minister for Health and Family Welfare, to advise Gupta to withdraw his letter in a dignified manner.

In its own letter, the association accused Gupta of making "baseless accusations, decreasing the morale of the government staff and disturbing their mental peace".

The association said that by asking for the restructuring of the department, the principal secretary was "unfairly" generalising all officers for the incompetence of a single officer.

It also questioned the authority of the department secretary to seek the restructuring of the entire department just to appoint competent individuals.

"When all other department secretaries trust the efficiency of the department staff, why does only this officer make baseless allegations," it asked.

It called the letter "an insult" and warned of a collective protest if it was not withdrawn.

Mega PTM at govt schools on Nov 14

BENGALURU, DHNS

For the first time, government schools and Pre University colleges across the state will witness a "Mega Parent Teacher Meeting" (PTM) on November 14 on the occasion of Children's day celebration.

The concept of PTM itself is new to the government schools and the Department of School Education and Literacy has decided to involve parents to know what is happening in the school and to familiarise them with the facilities provided by the government to encourage education.

Though this was announced by the minister for school education and literacy during the Kannada Rajyotsava celebrations, an official circular was issued on Wednesday asking the school authorities to make preparations for the PTM.

If the students' strength is less than 50 then all the parents should be invited, if the enrollment is above 50, the priority should be given to higher classes considering the availability of space at the schools to conduct meetings.

Instructions to schools

- Educate parents on Karnataka Public Schools, Early Education Centres started at government schools
- Inform parents about the facilities provided by the government
- Create awareness among parents about Right to Education, Child Rights, and POCSO
- Educate parents about negatives of child marriage, child labour etc., and also about the laws regarding the same
- Felicitate the out-performing students
- Extend invitations to parents through children
- On PTM day, schools must prepare Pulav and Payasam using the milk powder supplied to schools
- Egg and Banana should served only to children

Final schedule of SSLC, II PU exams announced

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Karnataka School Examination and Assessment Board (KSEAB) on Wednesday released the final schedule of Annual Exam-1 and 2 for both II PUC and SSLC for the year 2025-26.

The II PUC annual exam-1 will be held from February 28 to March 17, 2026, and the annual exam-2 will be held from April 25 to May 9 across the state.

According to the schedule, the SSLC annual exam-1 will be held from March 18 to April 2, 2026, and the annual exam-2 will be held from May 18 to 25. For detailed date sheet, students can visit the https://kseab.karnataka.gov.in.

Mandya farmer who set himself ablaze succumbs to burns

MANDYA, DHNS

Farmer M D Manjegowda (55) from Moodanahalli in K R Pet taluk, who tried to end his life by self-immolation, succumbed to burn injuries at Victoria Hospital in Bengaluru on Wednesday morning.

Alleging that he had not received compensation for the land acquired and the officials did not respond to the several petitions submitted, Manjegowda set himself ablaze after pouring petrol on his body at a park in front of the DC's office in the city on Tuesday.

He had suffered 80% burns and was provided first aid at Mandya Institute of Medical Sciences before being shifted to Victoria hospital in Bengaluru for further treatment. However, Manjegowda succumbed to injuries, doctors said.

Compensation

Agriculture and Mandya District Incharge Minister N Chaluvarayaswamy assured of providing Rs 5 lakh compensation to the kin of the farmer.

Agriculture and Mandya Incharge Minister N Chaluvarayaswamy consoles the family members of Manjegowda from K R Pet taluk who succumbed to burn injuries at Victoria Hospital in Bengaluru on Wednesday. Deputy Commissioner Kumara is also seen. DH PHOTO

On Wednesday, the minister visited Victoria hospital and paid his last respects to the deceased farmer.

He also consoled the family members. The minister assured of providing additional compensation after discussing the same with the chief minister.

Fisheries institute geared up for census

KARWAR, DHNS: More than 51,000 families involved in fishing across Uttara Kannada district will be surveyed as part of the fifth National Marine Fisheries Census exercise, which is set to begin shortly. The exercise will be carried out by personnel from the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute in Karwar.

Embracing digitisation, the Union Ministry of Fisheries has launched a dedicated app for the exercise. Data compiled by personnel on the ground will be fed into the app. Although the census, conducted once every five years, was scheduled to be undertaken in 2020, it was delayed following Covid-19 pandemic.

"The regional office of Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute in Karwar has been tasked with conducting the census in Uttara Kannada district and in neighbouring Goa. We will visit the homes of all the families involved in fishing," said V Mahesh, a senior scientist at the institute.

The institute will enlist the services of local youngsters for the exercise, said Mahesh. "We have already trained these youngsters, who will receive Rs 50 for every household they survey. We have already appointed around 60 such enumerators. Information on not just those owing boats and other vessels, but of all those engaged in seafaring work will be compiled," he added.

DH Classifieds

PUBLIC NOTICE

RAJYA VOKKALIGARA SANGHA ®
BANGALORE INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
(An Autonomous Institution under VTU Belagavi, Approved by AICTE, New-Delhi)
K.R.ROAD, V.V. PURA, BENGALURU – 560 004
Phone: 080-26613237, 26615865 Website: bit-bangalore.edu.in
Ref: BIT/STORE/1164/2025-2026 Date: 05/11/2025

Short Term E-Tender Notice

The Short term Tenders are invited through e-procurement portal from eligible tenderers, registered contractors*/Companies/agencies/ suppliers by the Principal, BIT, Bangalore for the works detailed in the table below under standard tender document procedure formats (The tenderers who have executed similar nature of single work costing not less than 50% of this tender amount during 2021-24,). Website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Sl. No	Name of work	Approx. Value of the works (Rs.)	EMD (Rs)	Cost of tender form (GST Included)	Period of completion
01	Supplying, Installation, Testing, Erection and Commissioning of outdoor (i) LED Video Wall UHD (4K). (ii). Professional Display Panel UHD (4K). (iii). Interactive Display Panel.	35 Lakhs	70,000/-	2,000/-	30 days

Calendar of events:

Tender Documents available in E-Procurement website	From 04.11.2025 to 24.11.2025 up to 04.00 PM
Date and Time of Pre-Bid Meeting	13.11.2025 at 11.00 AM
Last date of receipt of tenders	24.11.2025 up to 04.00 PM
Opening of Tenders	26.11.2025

01. Tender documents (Specifications, Term & Conditions) may be obtained from e-procurement website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in
02. EMD Paid through E-Procurement in the following modes only, 1. Debit Card, 2. Credit Card, 3. NET Banking, 4. NEFT 5. RTGS only.
03. The Contractors / Agencies / Suppliers shall bear the GST on works contract and any corporation and any other Local Authority & royalty due to the Government of Karnataka at the prevailing rates. R.V.Sangha / BIT is not responsible for all taxes with respect to the work.
04. Tenders may be applied to all items or tenders for individual items also accepted.
05. Right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason is reserved with the R.V. Sangha /BIT authority.
06. In the event of any holiday on the notified dates, the next working day will hold good.
07. For any enquiries contact Principal Office at V.V Pura, K.R Road Bengaluru-04 during office hours.
*Company/Authorized Dealers can only apply.

Principal BIT | Chairman BIT | Chairman Purchase Committee, RVS | Treasurer RVS | Joint Secretary RVS
General Secretary RVS | Vice President RVS | President RVS

BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED
Reg. Office: 30/1, 1st and 2nd Floor, BBMP Building, Thimmaiah Road, Millers Tank Bund Area, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru- 560051
No: DGM-3/BSWML/PR/280/2025-26 Date: 05.11.2025

INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
(Only Through GOK KPP Portal only)

Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited invites EOI from Eligible Firms / Agencies / Individuals for the work:

Name of the Work:

Setting up a Resource Centre with 8 Experts in various areas of Swachh Bharat Mission Components for coordination with the training agencies, review of the modules, identification of best practices, knowledge management, monitoring and evaluation etc.

1. This EOI is invited only for obtaining market rates to prepare the estimates.
2. The details of the EOI can be taken or downloaded the Government of Karnataka Public Procurement portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/ from 07.11.2025.**
3. Last date (deadline) to receive the response is: **20.11.2025 upto 4.00 PM through KPPP portal.**
4. Date of opening of responses is **21.11.2025 after 4.30 PM through KPPP portal.**
5. The Right to Accept / Reject an any or all responses received is reserved with the **Deputy General Manager-3, BSWML** without assigning any reasons thereof.

Sd/-
Deputy General Manager-3, BSWML.
DIPR/CP/3622/AAA/2025-26

BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED
Office of the Deputy General Manager-2, 1st Floor, BBMP Building, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru-560052. Email: bswmlee4@gmail.com
No. DGM-2/BSWML/Tend/24/2025-26 Date: 05.11.2025

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT) (Through GOK KPPP only)

The Deputy General Manager-2, Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited on behalf of the Managing Director, BSWML, Bengaluru invites tender from eligible tenderers for the Project management consultancy services for the work mentioned in the table below. The tenderers may submit tenders for services through KPPPortal of the Government of Karnataka (viz. **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**). The tenderers are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified is as per standard bid document. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents.

Sl. No.	Name of the Works	Estimate amount of works (Rs. In Lakhs)	Duration (Including Monsoon)	EMD Amount in Rs.
1	Appointment of PMC for the work of Lump Sum,Turn Key, Fixed Price, No Variation Tender based on Tenderers Own Design for the work of Construction of larger transfer station for effective solid waste management (CAPEX only) for a capacity of 200 MTPD.	Rs.1069.49 (Construction Cost Rs.305.80)	06 Months	Rs. 8000/-
2	Appointment of PMC for the work of Turn Key, Lump Sum, Fixed price, no variation Tender based on Tenderer's Own Design for the work of "Treatment and disposal of legacy leachate accumulated in Mittaganahalli& Kannur Landfill sites.	Rs.47489.00 (Capex cost: Rs.13525.60)	09 Months	Rs. 5,10,000/-

Calendar of events: 1. Pre bid Meeting: **17.11.2025at 15.00 Hrs at the office of CE & CGM (Tech), BSWML, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanthnagar, Bengaluru. 2.** Last date for submission of the bids: **27.11.2025upto 16.00 Hrs. 3.** Date of opening of Technical bid on : **28.11.2025 at 16.30 Hrs. 4.** Date of opening of Financial bids to be notified to technically qualified bidders.

1. The Employer shall not be liable for any delays due to system failure beyond its control. Even though the system will attempt to notify the Tenderers of any tender updates, the Employer shall not be liable for any information not received by the Tenderers. It is the Tenderers responsibility to verify the KPP portal for the latest information related to the tender, E-mail address of the Helpdesk is **hphelpdesk.blr@intarvo.com**. KPP portal help desk telephone numbers are: **080-22371090/22373788.** The tenderer is required to ensure browser capability of the computer well in advance to the last date and time for receipt of the tenders. The employer shall not be responsible for non-accessibility of KPP portal due to internet connectivity issues and technical glitches. **2.** Any corrigendum/addendum will be published in the KPP portal only.

Sd/-
Deputy General Manager-2, BSWML.
DIPR/CP/3623/AAA/2025-26

REAL ESTATE SELLING
Commerical
Sahakarnagar
SALE 1200 sqft. Semi commercial 40x30 W/F 2nd site to 60 ft road behind Manasa Hospital, Virupakshapura, Bangalore. 8197636042.
Sites
Banashankari
BANASHANKARI 6TH Stage 10th Block 40x60 West Facing. And 30x40 West Facing. More Details Call: 9148914809, 9993959099.
PERSONAL
Change of Name
CHANGE OF NAME
I, RIMA CHUGANI, residing at Flat No. B-21, Diamond District Apartments, Old Airport Road, Near Leela Palace Hotel, Kodihalli, Domlur, Bengaluru - 560 008, have changed my name to RIMA ASHOK CHUGANI vide affidavit dated 05.11.2025 before notary Ramesh D Shah, Bengaluru. Henceforth I shall be called RIMA ASHOK CHUGANI only

CHANGE OF NAME
I, Mary Rani, residing at No. 125/3, Rose Castle Radiant Enclave, Banjara Layout Sector-2, Horamavu Agara, Bengaluru-560043, have changed my name to MARY JOHNSON vide affidavit dated 05.11.2025 before notary Uday Kumar K, Bengaluru.
I, BHUVANA Chandra S/o N Banu Prakash aged about 22Years residing at Maruthi Nilaya Sadashiva Badavane, Gauribidanur Town, Chikkaballapur District 561208. Have changed my name to Bhuvan Chandra B and my father's name as N Banu Prakash vide affidavit dated 05.11.2025 before Notary N.S Ashok Kumar Gowribidanur. Henceforth I shall be called as Bhuvan Chandra B & my father's name as N Banu Prakash only.
CHANGE OF NAME
I, THOTA SAI HAARISH S/o Late VENKATESWARA RAO, residing at Flat No. 412B, SMR Vinay Crescent, Hennur Main Road, Kalyan Nagar Post, Bangalore - 560043, have changed my name to SAI HAARISH for all purposes vide affidavit dated 31-10-2025 sworn before Notary C. Santhosh, Bangalore. Henceforth, I shall be called SAI HAARISH only.
I, BHADRINATH S/o N Banu Prakash aged about 23 Years residing at Maruthi Nilaya Sadashiva Badavane, Gauribidanur Town, Chikkaballapur District 561208. Have changed my name to Badrinath B and my father's name as N Banu Prakash vide affidavit dated 05.11.2025 before Notary N S Ashok Kumar Gowribidanur. Henceforth I shall be called as Badrinath B & my father's name as Banu Prakash only.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES
Teachers/ Professors
TEACHER FOR Science Required For Class 6 to 10 SSLC State Board Contact 9901501185.
BUSINESS
Business to Business
Business
PROPERTY COLLATERALS/ Joint Ventures/ Takeovers/ Training/ New Ideas/ Finance for Big Projects. Dr. Swamy Naidu, Vamshadhara Projects & Services:- 9342247637.
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Minister calls agitating sugarcane growers for talks; protesters in no mood to relent

Indefinite protest seeking Rs 3.5k MSP for cane enters seventh day

GURLAPUR CROSS (BELAGAVI DISTRICT), DHNS

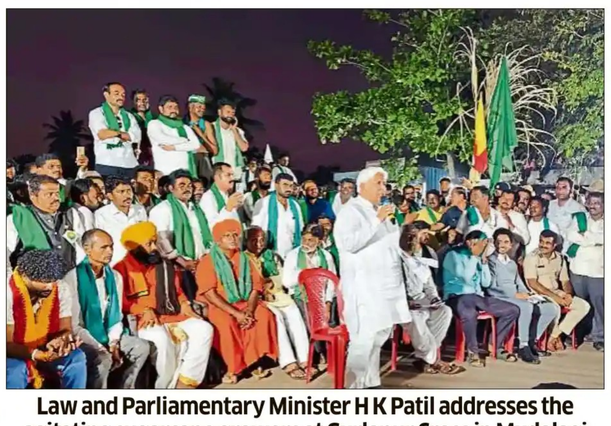
The farmers' protest, demanding a minimum support price of Rs 3,500 per tonne of sugarcane at Gurlapur Cross in Mudalagi taluk entered its seventh day on Wednesday.

Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H K Patil visited the agitating sugarcane growers at the protest site and called them for talks with the chief ministers.

Addressing the protesters, the minister said, "The chief minister has asked me to visit the protest and listen to the sugarcane growers' demand. Our government will respond to your woes. But only the CM or I cannot resolve the problem. The government has to look at all the dimensions - sugarcane growers' demand, sugar mill owners' views, FRP, MSP et al. Hence, I invite 20 farmer leaders to come for talks with the CM."

The minister continued: "The government had announced the installation of scientifically calibrated machines to ensure transparency in sugarcane weighing and put curbs on fraudulent weighing of cane. I completely agree with the farmers on bringing down sugar recovery costs.

I am with the farmers on some of their demands like clearing bills within 15 days of cane supply to mills; reinstatement of previous sugar commissioner who was transferred at the behest of sugar lobby; reestablishment of sugar commissionerate; 12 hours of uninterrupted power supply; ensuring transparency in cane transportation," Patil said and told the protesters that the problems can be addressed on the spot.



Law and Parliamentary Minister H K Patil addresses the agitating sugarcane growers at Gurlapur Cross in Mudalagi taluk, Belagavi district, on Wednesday evening.

BJP state president B Y Vijayendra celebrates his birthday at the protest site on Wednesday morning. BJP Rajya Sabha member Iranna Kadadi and party spokesperson Rajeev Kudachi are seen. Vijayendra expressed his solidarity with the protest, by staying overnight with the farmers.

The minister called the farmer representatives to come to Bengaluru for a discussion with all the stakeholders.

But the protesters are in no mood to relent. They want the government to announce the MSP of Rs 3,500 per tonne and fulfil their eight-point demands.

Protest intensifies

Meanwhile, the sugarcane growers' protest has intensified in the cane-growing districts of the Krishna basin. All 15 taluks in the Belagavi district witnessed protests by farmers on Wednesday. They staged shirtless protests on the state highway and slept on the highway at night.

Raibag witnessed a complete shutdown. The vehicular movement was sparse in Belagavi city and Gokak, Bailhongal and Kagwad towns. Many taluks in Bagalkot and Vijayapura also saw similar protests.

BYV celebrates b'day at protest site

BJP state president B Y Vijayendra slept with the protesters on the state highway at Gurlapur Cross on Tuesday. On Wednesday, he celebrated his birthday by eating sugarcane and jaggery at the protest site.

"The farmers are in crisis and I won't celebrate my birthday. I wanted to be with you, but since minister H K Patil is visiting the protest site, I am leaving. I don't want to see the issue take a political turn," Vijayendra said before leaving the site.

Nandini ups ghee prices by Rs 90/litre; butter dearer by Rs 26 a kg

1 litre ghee costs Rs 700 and butter Rs 570

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Karnataka Milk Federation (KMF) has increased the price of Nandini ghee by Rs 90 per litre and that of butter by Rs 26 per kg. With the increase, the cost of one litre of ghee stands at Rs 700 and one kg of butter at Rs 570.

Customers were in for a shock as the new rates came into effect from Wednesday.

Senior KMF officials said the decision was taken owing to increasing prices in the international market.

"Even in the international market, prices are rising owing to high demand. Our ghee prices are the lowest and even after the increase, they will still be one of the lowest. We need to increase prices to ensure the economics work out," a senior KMF official said.

The officials said they were paying farmers the same amount irrespective of the season and this was resulting in losses.

"Usually, during winter and monsoon season, the cows are not under stress and so, produce more yield. Till now, we have been giving the farmers a lower price during this season and a higher price during summer. Now, we are paying them uniformly during all seasons. Hence, the difference has to be recovered. Thus, price rise cannot be avoided," yet another official said.

Recently, owing to the slash in GST slabs, price of Nandini ghee had come down from Rs 640 to Rs 610 a litre.

Six-month provisional nod sans checks for hospitals, clinics to start operations

BHARATH JOSHI
BENGALURU, DHNS

The government is introducing a system in which new private medical establishments, including hospitals and clinics, will get a six-month 'provisional registration' to start operations without any inspection.

"This will prevent harassment," Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao told *DH*, conceding that hospitals and clinics faced problems like bribery to get registered under the Karnataka Private Medical Establishments (KPME) Act.

All private medical establishments are required to register under the KPME Act.

Recently, the government promulgated an ordinance amending the KPME Act to enable 'provisional registration'.

Dinesh Gundu Rao

Private medical establishments will be granted 'provisional registration' within 10 days of submitting application.

"Establishments can start their operations with the provisional registration, which will be valid for six months. During this period, they can work towards complying with prerequisites for permanent registration," Rao said.

He added that his department was framing the necessary rules to start granting 'provisional registration'.

The 'provisional registration' itself can be renewed up to September 2026, which is one year from when the KPME (Amendment) Ordinance commenced.

This ease-of-doing-business reform is similar to what the government did for industries in 2020-21 with the affidavit-based clearance (ABC) system.

Under the ABC system, industries can start operations while getting a three-year window to obtain various permits.

For permanent KPME registration, which is valid for five years, medical establishments should be located in hygienic surroundings, adequately staffed with qualified personnel, have sufficient space for its functions, obtain fire safety clearance and so on.

Other certifications

The government has also decided that private medical establishments need not be inspected under KPME if they undergo a third-party audit by the Quality Control of India. Such establishments will get KPME registration within 10 days without any inspection.

Similarly, establishments that furnish accreditation certificates from the National Quality Assurance Standards (NQAS), National Accreditation Board for Hospital and Healthcare Provides (NABH) or Quality and Accreditation Institute (QAI) will get KPME registration in 10 days without any further checks.

Urban Development Authority, Kalaburagi
Beside Mini Vidhan Soudha, Station Main road, Kalaburagi-585102
Email:commissionergda@gmail.com

No.: KUDA/Allot/CA/Notification-3/2025-26 Date: 04-11-2025

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

Allotment of Civic Amenity (C.A.) Sites Reserved for Public Use on Lease Basis

A total of **112 civic amenity (C.A.) sites**, reserved in private layouts approved by the **Kalaburagi Urban Development Authority (KUDA)**, will be allotted to various organizations as per the **Karnataka Urban Development Authorities (Allotment of Civic Amenity Sites) Rules, 1991**. Government and semi-government departments, as well as registered organizations and institutions, interested in obtaining these sites on a **30-year lease basis**, may submit their applications to the Authority's office in the prescribed format. Applications may be submitted for civic amenity sites of various dimensions intended for purposes such as: Cultural, religious, or social activities, Post offices, banks, fair price shops, and milk centers, Schools, hospitals, and child care centers, Central libraries, gymnasiums, and recreation centers, Educational institutions, police stations, and fire stations, Community halls, and offices of the Central or State Government.

Applicants are required to pay the **registration fee** and **initial deposit** as specified for the respective site categories along with their application. Place of issue and submission of application forms : Kalaburagi Urban Development Authority, Kalaburagi, Dates for issue of application forms : **From 05-11-2025 to 19-11-2025**, Last date for submission of filled-in applications : **20-11-2025 up to 5.30 PM.**

For more information regarding the **layouts containing C.A. sites**, **survey numbers**, **site numbers**, **measurements**, and **rates**, applicants may contact the KUDA office during working hours.

Sd/-
CommissionerUrban Development AuthorityKalaburagi

Sd/-
ChairmanUrban Development AuthorityKalaburagi

DIPR/Kalaburagi/ 677/2025-26/Deshpande Publicity

Government of Karnataka - Karnataka Forest Department
Office of the Assistant Conservator of Forests, Hosanagara Sub Division, Hosanagara.
District: Shivamogga, Taluk: Hosanagara,
e-Mail ID: acfhnr@gmail.com
No: ACF/HNR/CAMPA AR/CR-1/2025-26/CALL-2 / 67
Date:31.10.2025

Detailed e-Tender Notice (e-Tender Notice Through e-Procurement Portal)

A total of 04 advance works under the CAMPA (AR-Model) scheme in various forest zones of Sagara Division during the year 2025-26 are being carried out under the scheme for an estimated total cost of Rs. 43.75 lakhs (Call-2), from interested forest contractors having at least 05 years of experience. The last date for submission of tenders is 14-11-2025, at 5:00 PM . The complete details of the works and their locations are described in the e-procurement portal. For more information, this office may be contacted.

The tender details can also be obtained through the official website: http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.

Sd/- Assistant Conservator of Forests
Hosanagara Sub-Division, Hosanagara

DIPR/smg/ksmca/25-26/07/10/1183

KARNATAKA NEERAVARI NIGAM LIMITED
(Government of Karnataka Enterprises)
Office of the Executive Engineer, KNNL,
Dandavathi Reservoir Project Division, Shikaripura.

Short Term Tender Notification- 18/2025-26 Date: 23-10-2025
(Two document System & KPPP System only)

Short term percentage tender are invited as per K.P.P.P on behalf of Managing Director KNNL Bangalore from eligible contractors such as KPWD Class-I/CPWD Class-I and Above. The tenderers are required to submit tenders only through K.P.P. portal of Govt of Karnataka **(http://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in).**

"Survey, Investigation, Design, Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Tank Filling Scheme (Head Works consisting of construction of Barrage, Intake trough with forebay, Jack well cum pump house, Vertical Turbine Pumps coupled to Motors, Pump house electrical works, Necessary valves, Delivery Pipe, Manifold system, electrical panel, soft starter, capacitors, 11 kV transformer, 11/0.433 kV sub-station, 11 kV power line and 11 kV Terminal bay, Rising Main, Pressure Distribution) for Filling up 32 tanks of Gudavi and other MI/ZP tanks in Soraba Taluk by lifting water from Varada River near Gudavi Village including Operation and Maintenance for a period of 5 years after successful completion of work for GUDAVI TANK FILLING SCHEME on Turn-Key Basis.". (INDENT No: 3316) Work Amount put to tender **Rs. 42.06 Crores** and EMD **Rs.0.36 Crores.**

1) Date of downloading & submission of tender (through KPPP) will be on **03.11.2025 to 03.12.2025 up to 4.00 PM 2)** Date of Pre bid meeting:**17.11.2025 @11.00AM.**(O/o Chief Engineer, KNNL, UTP Zone Shimogga **3)** Opening of technical bid will be on **05.12.2025 @ 11.00 AM 4)** Financial bid will be opened after approval of technical bid.

For more details visit website from date-**03-11-2025** at **(http://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in).**

Sd/-
Executive Engineer. KNNL, DRP Division, Shikaripura

DIPR/SMG/No-04-11/zenkar/2025-26

Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation
Kempegowda Bus Station Division

No.: KST/KBS/COM-4/696/2025-26 Date: 05/11/2025

Amendement Order

The Tender Notification No 07/623/2025-26 Dated: 13.10.2025 through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal from 16.10.2025 to 05.11.2025 for selecting licensees for maintenance of Urinals and Toilets and mechanized / non mechanized Housekeeping services at Kempegowda Bus Station, Devanahalli Trumpet Bus Station and Sports Complex (Toilets & Crew rest Room) at Shanthinagara pertaining to KBS Division, KSRTC for a period of Three (3) years. The selection is based on the Highest bid for entire Bus Station. The said e-tender (Reference No KSRTC/2025-26/SE2055) is postponed due to administrative reasons. For further information please visit the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal at https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in and the tender notification can be viewed on the KSRTC website at ksrtc.karnataka.gov.in. For further information, please contact the Divisional Office, KSRTC, Kempegowda Bus Station Division, Bangalore-560009, during office hours. Contact phone numbers are 7760990550, 7760990557 and KPP portal helpline numbers are 9240214000 / 9240214001 / 8068948777 / 8046010000, support@eprochelpdesk.com.

Sd/-
Senior Divisional Controller
KBS Division, Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/3594/AKAR/2025-26

DISTRICT SURGEON DISTRICT HOSPITAL
District Surgeon District Hospital, Killa Road,
Dharwad - 580 008. Ph. : 0836 - 2741277, 0836 - 2748374,
Fax : 0836 - 2741277, E-mail : dsdharwad@gmail.com

No. : D.H.D./D.N.B./CR/82/2025-26 Date : 04-11-2025

NOTIFICATION

As per **Commissionerate Health and Family Welfare and Ayush Services Order No. : SIH/DNB/G.L/03/2016-17, Date : 12-01-2017** Walk in interview will be held for the post of **DNB PG Teacher / Senior Consultant** in the subject of **Peadiatrics at District Hospital, Dharwad** on contractual Basis. Interview will be conducted for the advertised post as shown below. All eligible candidates have to appear personally along with requisite **Certificates on 18-11-2025, at 10.00 a.m. at Office of the District Surgeon District Hospital, Killa Road, Dharwad.**

Walk in interview for Faculty DNB Course On
Date : 18-11-2025. 10.00 a.m.

1) Name of the Post : Senior Consultant, PG Teacher, (Peadiatrics), No. of Posts : 01, Qualification : PG Degree / DNB in Concerned Speciality, Experience & Eligibility : 1. Qualification : Specialists with PG Degree in the Particular Specialty with Minimum of 10 Years Experience Post PG Degree Qualification including a Minimum of 05 Years PG Teaching Experience in the Concerned Specialty in recognized Medical College or a DNB Centre. The PG Teacher should have Guided a Minimum of 02 PG / DNB Students. 2) He or She should be registered under Karnataka Medical Council. 3) Age Limit : Within 67 Years with Good Physical & Mental Health. Younger age is preferred. Venue : Office of the District Surgeon District Hospital, Dharwad.

Note : *As per NHM Guidelines Monthly Consolidated Salary is Rs. 1,50,000/-.

Sd/- District Surgeon,
District Hospital Dharwad.

DIPR/Dharwad/830/Manipal/2025-26

ನಗರಸಭಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ನೆಲಮಂಗಲ
ನೆಲಮಂಗಲ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ–562123, ದೂ.: 080–27722735,
ಸಹಾಯವಾಣಿ: 080–27722135, Web : www.nelamangala.mrc.gov.in,
Email : itstaff_ulb_nelamangala@yahoo.com

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ನಸನೆ/ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ(ವಿ)/ಟೆಂಡರ್/61/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 05.11.2025

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾತ್ರ)
(ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ್‌ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್ KW ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗಳಂತೆ ಅರ್ಜಿ & ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ)

ಪೌರಾಯುಕ್ತರು ನಗರಸಭೆ ನೆಲಮಂಗಲ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ ಇವರಿಂದ 2025–26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ನಗರಸಭಾ ನಿಧಿಯಡಿ ವಿವಿಧ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಲು ಒಟ್ಟು ಮೊತ್ತ **ರೂ.356.20 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳ** ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಐಟಾಂವಾರು ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್‌ನ ಕೆಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನ ಏಕ ಲಕೋಟೆ ಹಾಗೂ ದ್ವಿ–ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಡಿ ಅರ್ಹ ದರ್ಜೆಯ ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮುಂತಾದ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ವೆಬ್ ಸೈಟ್: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/** ಹಾಗೂ ನಗರಸಭೆಯ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಶಾಖೆಯನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/–	ಸಹಿ/–	ಸಹಿ/–	ಸಹಿ/–
ಮಾನ್ಯ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು ನಗರಸಭೆ, ನೆಲಮಂಗಲ	ಮಾನ್ಯ ಉಪಾಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು ನಗರಸಭೆ, ನೆಲಮಂಗಲ	ಮಾನ್ಯ ಸ್ಥಾಯಿ ಸಮಿತಿ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು ನಗರಸಭೆ, ನೆಲಮಂಗಲ	ಪೌರಾಯುಕ್ತರು ನಗರಸಭೆ, ನೆಲಮಂಗಲ

ವಾ.ಸಾ.ಸಂ.ಇ/ವಾಪ್ರ/3614/ತಿರಡಿಸಾಯ/2025–26

BANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Wholly Owned Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
CIN-U40010KA2002SGC030438

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPP Portal)

BESCOM invites tender for following Services. **Enquiry No. CEE/BMANZ/SEE(O)/AEE-1/25-26/Enq.No.05 Dated: 04.11.2025** for Providing services of 24 no's of drivers to various division of East and North Circle in BMANZ, BESCOM, Bangalore for a period of one year.

Issue of bid documents: **07.11.2025 to 16.11.2025, (14.00 Hrs.)** Receipt of bid documents: **16.11.2025 upto (16.00 Hrs.)** Opening of bid documents on or after: **18.11.2025 (16.00 Hrs.)**

The tenders can be obtained through e-Procurement by visiting our website or directly you can access the tendering website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Any clarification about e-payment contact e-procurement Helpdesk: **8217046776** or e-mail to: hphelpdesk.blr@rteservices.com for any issue.

For Electricity related complaints call: 1912
Download BESCOM Mithra Mobile APP

Sd/-
Chief Engineer (Electy), (C, O & M), BMAZ-North, BESCOM, Bengaluru.

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN:U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No. SEE/Tr(P)/BRC/EE/AEE-2/25-26/1893-95 Date: 04.11.2025

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPP portal only)

KPTCL invites tenders for the following works through KPP Portal.

(1) Providing property fencing to the proposed 220KV sub-station land at Kudumalakunte I/A, Gowribidanur Tq. Chikkaballapura Dist. (2nd Call). Approx. Cost (Excluding GST): **Rs. 11,30,000/-.** Category: **Others/ General.**

(2) Providing property fencing to the proposed 220KV sub-station land at Vemgal I/A, Kolar Tq. and Dist. (2nd Call) Approx. Cost (Excluding GST): **Rs. 11,11,000/-.** Category: **Participation Schedule Caste only**

(3) Providing property fencing to the proposed 220KV sub-station land at KGF, Kolar Dist. (2nd Call) Approx. Cost (Excluding GST): **Rs. 11,86,000/-.** Category: **Others/ General.**

(4) Providing property fencing to the proposed 66/11KV sub-station land at N. Vaddahalli, Mulabagilu Tq, Kolar Dist. (2nd Call) Approx. Cost (Excluding GST): **Rs. 6,25,000/-.** Category: **CAT-I**

(5) Providing property fencing to the proposed 66/11KV sub-station land at Kurubarahalli, Kolar Tq and Dist. (2nd Call) Approx. Cost (Excluding GST): **Rs. 6,54,000/-.** Category: **Others/ General**

(6) Providing property fencing to the proposed 66/11KV sub-station land at Arabhikothnur, Kolar Tq and Dist. (2nd Call) Approx. Cost (Excluding GST): **Rs. 7,40,000/-.** Category: **Participation Schedule Tribe only**

The detailed notification regarding the subject tenders can be got by logging **on 07.11.2025** to **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink **'E Procurement KPTCL' or to https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/-Superintending Engineer(Ele.), Tr(Projects) Rural Circle, KPTCL, R.R. Nagar Metro Station, Pantharapalya, Mysuru Road, Bengaluru-26.

KARNATAKA STATE ROAD TRANSPORT CORPORATION
Kempegowda Bus Station Division, Bengaluru.

No: KST/KBS/COM-4/697/2025-26 Date:05.11.2025

Amendment Order

The Tender Notification No 08/625/2025-26 Dated: 13.10.2025 through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal from 16.10.2025 to 05.11.2025 for selecting licensees for maintenance of Urinals and Toilets and mechanized / non mechanized Housekeeping services at Mysore Road Bus Station, pertaining to KBS Division, KSRTC for a period of **Three (3) years.** The selection is based on the **Highest bid** for entire Bus Station. The said e-tender (Reference No KSRTC/2025-26/SE2056) is postponed due to administrative reasons. For further information please visit the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal at **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** and the tender notification can be viewed on the KSRTC website at **ksrtc.karnataka.gov.in.** For further information, please contact the Divisional Office, KSRTC, Kempegowda Bus Station Division, Bangalore-560009, during office hours. Contact phone numbers are 7760990550, 7760990557 and KPP portal helpline numbers are 9240214000 /9240214001 / 8068948777 / 8046010000, support@eprochelpdesk.com.

Sd/- Sr. Divisional Controller,
KBS Division, Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/3593/MAA/2025-26

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Department of Health & Family Welfare
Karnataka State AIDS Prevention Society
Arogya Soudha, 4th Floor, 1st Cross, Magadi Road, Bengaluru-560023.
Tel: 080-29557021, email: pdksaps@gmail.com

No. KSAPS/IEC/IEPR/1/2025-IEC Dated: 31/10/2025

Invitation for Tenders through e-Procurement

Tenders (Two Covers) are invited for printing & supply of IEC materials under E-Procurement System. Details are available at e-procurement website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Last date for submission of tender on **27/11/2025 at 5.30pm.**

Sd/- Project Director
Karnataka State AIDS Prevention Society, Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/3615/Zen/2025-26

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER
(only through KPP-Portal)

BWSSB invites Tenders from Registered Contractors for the following works.

Office of the Chief Engineer (D & QA) , 9th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K. G. Road, Bangalore-560009.

Division	IFT Number	Amount put to Tender / EMD Amount	Last date & time for Submission of Tender	Date & Time for Opening of Tender
(Buildings)	BWSSB/EE(Buildings)/PB/2077/2025-26 Date: 21.10.2025	Rs.10,06,707/- / Rs.25,200/-	12.11.2025 upto 4:00 PM	13.11.2025 after 4:00 PM

Sd/- Executive Engineer (Buildings)

The detail regarding the tender & participation in the e-procurement portal process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** For further details contact the abovesigned office during working hours.

DIPR/CP/3611/SSC/2025-26

Shivakumar in Delhi, says no plan to meet party leaders

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Wednesday said he had no plan to meet the Congress top brass.

Shivakumar, who is in national capital to meet advocates to discuss inter-state water disputes, told reporters that he had no plan to meet any Congress leader as all were busy with Bihar Assembly elections.

"I came to meet advocates to discuss inter-state water disputes. I held a meeting with them on Mekedatu and Krishna water dispute issues. I gave some suggestions. Our Lok Sabha members, mostly from BJP, should raise the pending irrigation issues with the Centre and get justice to the state," he said.

To a question on increase in ghee prices by Karnataka Milk Federation (KMF), he said, "The decision was taken to help farmers. Ultimately, we want them to benefit".

There was speculation that Shivakumar came to Delhi to meet the party's top brass amid rumours of leadership change in the state.

Bill moots quota for people with disabilities in education...

Reservation, from Page 1

"According to the minister's directions, the Bill is being prepared and is currently in the draft stage. The Bill will be a first-of-its-kind state-specific legislation to protect the interests of PwDs. It will be submitted to the government shortly," G Manjunath, Additional Labour Commissioner, told *DH*.

Manjunath said they were also looking into the best practices across the globe regarding reservations for PwDs, which could be incorporated in the Bill.

The legislation may mandate a carry forward set-up for educational institutions, where seats will be carried forward up to three years if there are no suitable candidates. After that, it is expected to revert to 10%.

According to the concept note, the Bill may mandate publication and accessible equal employment opportunity policies on the employer's website, ensuring prospective PwD employees to have access to the same.

Officers of the Department of Labour, Factories and Boilers and other authorities of the line department shall act as inspectors-cum-facilitators to enforce the bill provisions.

Studies by the International Labour Organisation highlight that organisations with inclusive hiring policies report 30% higher employee retention and increased innovation. Including PwDs in the workforce is expected to increase productivity, and add up to 3-5% to state GDP.

If these changes are implemented, the Labour Department feels Karnataka will be the first Indian state to fully comply with United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD), which India ratified in 2007.

HERALDING EQUALITY?: 'Opponents mocked them, but now replicate model elsewhere'

Guarantees no burden, not inflationary: CM

BENGALURU, DHNS

The five 'guarantee' schemes have "neither burdened the exchequer nor fuelled inflation," Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said on Wednesday, adding that the programmes had increased consumption by stimulating local demand.

Siddaramaiah said this via a written speech in absentia at an event organised by the Fiscal Policy Institute on research findings on the 'guarantee' schemes.

Since 2023, the Congress government has allocated over Rs 96,000 crore for the 'guarantee' schemes, the chief minister said.

"When the world applauds Karnataka's guarantee schemes as a model for inclusive governance, the Opposition remains busy spreading misinformation and negativity," Siddaramaiah said.

"Contrary to the sceptics, these schemes have neither burdened the exchequer nor fuelled inflation. In fact, by increasing consumption at the bottom of the pyramid, they have stimulated local demand, enhanced revenue buoyancy and reduced rural unemployment," the CM said, calling it a "bottom-up growth" model.

By implementing the schemes, Siddaramaiah said Karnataka showed that "fiscal expansion can coexist with price stability and equity".

He said the state's per-capita income continued to grow even as welfare delivery expanded.

"When we first launched the guarantee schemes, our political opponents mocked us.

> When the world applauds Karnataka's guarantee schemes as a model for inclusive governance, the Opposition remains busy spreading misinformation and negativity.
>
> **Siddaramaiah, CM**

They called it fiscally irresponsible, a "freebie culture" and an election gimmick. But the truth has a way of prevailing. Within months, the same parties began to replicate similar schemes in every poll-bound state without acknowledging their inspiration," Siddaramaiah said, a clear dig at the BJP.

In 2025-26, the government has allocated Rs 51,034 crore for the guarantees. Of this, 56.06% goes to Gruha Lakshmi, 19.79% Gruha Jyothi, 12.59% Anna Bhagya, 10.39% Shakti and 1.18% to Yuva Nidhi.

"Over 1.24 crore women receive support through Gruha Lakshmi, 1.63 crore households benefit from Gruha Jyothi, 4.08 crore people benefit from Anna Bhagya and 2.84 lakh youth receive Yuva Nidhi," Siddaramaiah said, adding that a family of four receives an average monthly benefit of around Rs 10,000 "directly enabling economic stability, higher consumption, and reduced debt dependence".

Shakti scheme giving women access to work, says study

SNEHA RAMESH
BENGALURU, DHNS

The state government's Shakti scheme that provides free bus travel for women has redrawn the city's map in a gendered sense – making central, commercial, and formal zones accessible to women in new and sustained ways, a study by Azim Premji University has concluded.

The conclusions were drawn by analysing granular, disaggregated data provided by BMTC for each trip made by a specific bus in a specific route, along with data on the mode of transport for non-agricultural workers from the 2011 census and the State of Working India Report 2023.

According to the data, researchers opined that if buses are not accessible, safe, or affordable, women stay home or, at best, accept informal work within walking distance.

"By contrast, if buses are affordable and reliable, they open up an extended radius of employment possibilities. A woman living in an outer Bengaluru locality like Peenya or Bommanahalli might only be able to work in her neighbourhood, if walking is her only option – but if she has free, frequent and safe bus access, she can feasibly reach, for example, the CBD," the study said.

The study findings also suggested that by making bus travel free for resident women, Karnataka has not only expanded access to economic and social opportunities, but also altered the spatial dynamics of Bengaluru.

"Core routes through the CBD now reflect a more gender-inclusive ridership," the study noted.

However, to sustain the positive impacts of the Shakti scheme, the government needs to strengthen the public transport infrastructure and improve last-mile connectivity, the paper suggested.

"Shakti's success now rests heavily on the capacity of the public transport system to absorb and sustain the rise in demand. Overcrowding, low service frequency and an ageing fleet risk turning the promise of access into an experience of delay and discomfort," the paper said.

The researchers also opined that the scheme should be expanded to include interstate migrant women, who are currently excluded on domicile grounds.

"Such women form a significant share of the city's working poor, live and work in some of the most poorly connected areas of Bengaluru and remain structurally dependent on walking or informal transit. Their exclusion not only weakens the inclusive intent of the scheme, but also overlooks its potential productivity benefits," the paper said.

The study findings suggest that by making bus travel free for resident women, Karnataka has not only expanded access to economic and social opportunities, but also altered the spatial dynamics of Bengaluru.

Gruha Lakshmi delays causing financial stress for women: Study

BENGALURU, DHNS

Ninety-nine per cent of women benefitting from Gruha Lakshmi have full control of the money they get under the scheme, but many of them faced delays in payouts, leading to high financial stress, a study has shown.

The study - *From Guarantees to Rights: Assessing Karnataka's Experiment with Basic Income and Basic Services* led by Prabha Kotiswaran from King's College London - covered 2,045 women, which included 1,234 Gruha Lakshmi beneficiaries.

Gruha Lakshmi is the largest of the five 'guarantee' schemes covering 1.24 crore women.

"As much as 99% of the beneficiaries reported having full control over their money. The Rs 2,000 monthly payment... represented 13% of the household income for those in the treatment group (1,234 respondents)," the study said.

However, 78% of beneficiaries faced delays in receiving money. "Among those who faced delays, 62% of the respondents reported missing payments for one to two months, while 34% experienced delays of three months or longer," the study said.

"Delays led to high levels of financial stress and loan borrowings and worry that the scheme may stop. Husbands now lent women money and expected repayment when the Gruha Lakshmi amount arrived," it said.

According to the study, women spent the money largely on food, household expenses, medicines and children's fees.

"But beneficiaries consistently spoke of the sharp pain of inflation, which dulled the positive impact of the cash transfer," the study said.

"Inflation was widely thought to result from the guarantees," it said, even as Chief Minister Siddaramaiah claimed that the 'guarantee' schemes did not fuel inflation.

The study found that women preferred regular work with a steady income and were not willing to risk becoming entrepreneurs.

"While Gruha Lakshmi could have emboldened them to take a loan to start a business, its erratic disbursement and the larger backdrop of inflation prevented women from using it in this way," it said.

The study found that women had 10% more say over how their husbands' earnings are utilised "possibly signifying the power in having and controlling their own money from Gruha Lakshmi". Still, the vast majority (92%) said that decision-making around their healthcare hadn't changed.

11 cr women

Another study titled *Valuing Care, Recognising Rights, Reimagining Welfare: How to Make Unconditional Cash Transfers Gender Transformative* said 11.3 crore women in 11 states receive unconditional cash transfer (UCT).

"Preliminary studies offer no evidence that UCTs either disincentivise women's participation in the paid labour market or reinforce the gendered division of labour. But, as of now, neither have UCTs led to social recognition, reduction or redistribution of unpaid domestic and care work (UDCW)," the study found.

CM Siddaramaiah, Congress leaders Mallikarjun Kharge, Rahul Gandhi & others at Gruha Lakshmi scheme launch.

Shakti boosts women's disposable income by 12%: Study

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Shakti free bus travel scheme effectively increases women's disposable income by 8–12%, according to a study by the Centre for Gender Analysis, JustJobs Network and Fiscal Policy Institute, Government of Karnataka.

'Mobility as social protection: Fare-free public bus transport and women's economic participation — A study of Karnataka's Shakti Yojane' was conducted in two parts to assess how fare-free public transport shapes women's mobility, livelihoods and autonomy.

Using a combination of large surveys, follow-up interviews and in-depth discussions across districts, the study focused on women from low-income and informal-sector households who depend mostly on public transport.

The scheme is particularly impactful for low-income earners, informal workers and students and reported higher utilisation among SC/ST/OBC women and lower-expenditure homes. Bus-fare savings were diverted to essentials and the scheme enables retention of jobs, extra shifts and secondary income opportunities, it said.

By removing daily transport costs, Shakti enables women to save Rs 1,500–2,000 per month, effectively increasing their disposable income by 8–12% of average monthly earnings, according to the study.

However, operational challenges persist. Overcrowding and long wait times on high-demand routes — especially during peak hours — remain major issues. Commuters have also flagged safety and comfort concerns for elderly women, pregnant passengers and those travelling with children.

The study highlights perceived inequities among non-beneficiaries and growing discontent over recent fare hikes for male passengers, with some citing higher costs as a reason for reducing or discontinuing bus use.

To strengthen the scheme, experts have recommended expanding fleet capacity, improving frequency on high-demand routes, and enhancing comfort and accessibility.

They have also called for an equitable and predictable fare policy for all users, gender-sensitive planning with better lighting and last-mile safety and extension of benefits to non-working women, students and informal workers.

New York elects Indian-origin Mamdani as mayor

Mamdani, from Page 1

"I am Muslim. I am a democratic socialist. And most damning of all, I refuse to apologise for any of this," Mamdani told his jubilant supporters at Brooklyn Paramount Theater.

His historic victory to run the city of more than 8.4 million people is seen as a come back of progressive politics, with Mamdani vowing to prioritise working-class issues as he proposed initiatives like free childcare, rent-freeze, free bus services and government-run grocery stores to make New York affordable to live.

The Uganda-born state lawmaker will be inaugurated as the 111th mayor of New York in January. Currently a member of the Queens state assembly, Mamdani emerged victorious, securing over 50% of the votes. Cuomo, 67, who was endorsed by Trump trailed behind with just over 40% votes while Sliwa garnered a mere 7% of the votes.

Cuomo ran as an independent after losing the Democratic primary to Mamdani in June.

In his address, Mamdani invoked Jawaharlal Nehru as he quoted the first prime minister of India from his famous "Tryst with Destiny" speech of 1947 to reflect his own agenda of revitalisation, equality and tackling corruption.

"Standing before you, I think of the words of Jawaharlal Nehru — a moment comes, but rarely in history, when we step out from the old to the new, when an age ends and when the soul of a nation long suppressed finds utterance. Tonight, we have stepped out from the old into the new," he said amid loud cheers.

Rahul: BJP, EC did 'sarkar chori' in Haryana elections

Rahul, from Page 1

Citing the electoral roll to claim that 25.41 lakh voters were fake voters, he said it would mean one in eight or 12.5% voters in Haryana during the Assembly elections last October were fake.

Despite that, he said Congress lost in eight seats cumulatively by just 22,779 votes. The difference between Congress and BJP votes in total were 1.18 lakh, he said.

He said there were 5.21 lakh voters with the same name and age among other details within the same seat. There were 1.2 lakh entries where voters share the same photograph but with different names and details.

"I was in shock, I simply could not believe what we found. I asked the team to cross check multiple times. I want young people, Gen Z to understand this clearly as your future is being stolen," he said.

Displaying the picture of a woman he identified as a Brazilian model, Rahul said her photograph appears 22 times in 10 booths in Rai constituency with names like Seema, Sweety and Saraswati.

In Mulana, he said a woman's photo appeared 223 times in two booths while in Tigaon, a woman's photo appeared 100 times across 10 booths.

Rahul said his team also discovered invalid addresses for 93,174 voters and referred to Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar's remarks that 'zero' is added as addresses for homeless people as well as for whom house number has not been allotted.

He counted 19.26 lakh voters as 'bulk voters' and cited the examples of 66 people registering as voters in a BJP district vice president's house and 501 in another house, which could not be found.

Rahul also claimed that they have found thousands of voters who are on the rolls in both Uttar Pradesh and Haryana, including sarpanches aligned to BJP from Mathura district.

He also claimed that they could locate 3.5 lakh deletions between Lok Sabha and Assembly polls. In Booth No 1 in Rai assembly seat, it was claimed that 128 people who voted in Lok Sabha polls could not do so in Assembly polls five months apart as their names were deleted.

Rahul said that top five exit polls had predicted a Congress sweep in Haryana and even the party led in 73 of the 90 seats after postal votes were counted.

It was surprising that for the first time in Haryana, the postal votes were different from the result, he said.

First phase of Bihar poll battle today; 3.75 cr voters in 121 seats

Bihar polls, from Page 1

Media personnel from across the nation have swooped down on Mokama, around 100 km from Patna, from where don-turned-politician Anant Singh is contesting as the JD (U) candidate. Anant was arrested on Sunday on murder charges after the death of Jan Suraaj supporter Dularchand Yadav.

Union Minister Lalan Singh has taken up cudgels on behalf of the arrested candidate, camping in Mokama till Nov 4. In fact, an FIR was registered against Lalan Singh on Tuesday after he allegedly exhorted NDA supporters to prevent opponents from voting.

Another constituency which will draw attention on Thursday is Tarapur in Munger from where Deputy CM and former Bihar BJP president Samrat Choudhary is in the fray.

Noted artist Maithili Thakur too will be observed keenly in Alinagar from where the 25-year-old folk singer is in the fray as a BJP nominee. She was in the news recently after proposing that she would get Alinagar renamed as Sitanagar, as a tribute to Goddess Sita.

The NDA and the I.N.D.I.A bloc, besides the newbie Jan Suraaj, have pulled out all stops to woo voters.

PM Narendra Modi addressed eight election meetings while Congress leader Rahul Gandhi did 14. Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, despite not keeping well, addressed 41 meetings, but it was Tejashwi who topped the chart, addressing 96 campaign events.

The second & last phase of election for the remaining 122 seats will be held on Nov 11. Counting of votes is on Nov 14.

HC bins petition of adopted son seeking job in KSRTC on compassionate grounds

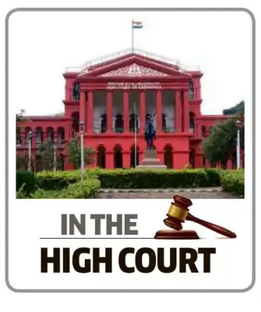
BENGALURU, DHNS: The High Court of Karnataka dismissed the petition by an adopted son of Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) driver seeking appointment in the corporation on compassionate grounds.

A division bench comprising Justices D K Singh and Rajesh Rai K observed that the application was filed belatedly, five years after the death of the employee.

The petitioner Vinayaka Madenahalli, a resident of Hirekerur in Haveri district, had first submitted an application seeking appointment on compassionate grounds on February 13, 2019.

The petitioner claimed that he was the adopted son of Chandrappa Madenahalli, driver with the KSRTC, who died in harness on February 22, 2014.

The petitioner contended that after his application was rejected on May 8, 2019, he filed two more representations in August 2021. He moved the high court and on July 10, 2024, a single bench dismissed his petition.



The advocate representing the KSRTC submitted that the corporation had informed the bereaved family that any of the family members could seek appointment on compassionate grounds.

It was submitted that the corporation's policy specifically prohibits appointment on compassionate grounds to the adopted son or daughter.

It was informed to the division bench that the petitioner had filed a suit before a court in Hirekerur in 2018 seeking declaration that he was the adopted son of Chandrappa Madenahalli.

The counsel for the corporation argued that the suit was decreed as uncontested and said it was filed only to get a declaration to use it up to the government post.

The policy of the corporation itself provides for making an application for compassionate appointment within a period of one year from the date of the death of the bread earner employee, the advocate submitted.

The division bench noted that the first application was made by the petitioner after the expiry of five years from the date of death.

"Considering the policy of the respondent-Corporation, wherein it is provided that an adopted son or daughter would not be entitled to compassionate appointment, as well as considering the fact that the first application, as per averments in the writ petition as well as in the memorandum of appeal, was filed only on February 13, 2019, which is after five years from the date of death of the employee, we are of the view that the application filed by the appellant was also belatedly filed and such an application could not have been entertained by the Corporation. Relying on the judgment of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in Canara Bank (supra), we find no merit in this appeal, which is why it is dismissed," the bench said.

◆ WEATHER ◆

Overview: Rainfall occurred at many places over Coastal and North Interior Karnataka and dry weather prevailed over South Interior Karnataka
Forecast Nov 06: Rainfall to occur at some places over the state.

INTERIOR NORTH			
Stations	Max	Min	Rain
Belagavi	28.2	21.5	00
Bidar	27.4	18.5	00
Vijayapura	29.5	21	00
Dharwad	29	18	00
Haveri	28.4	20.4	00
Kalaburagi	29.8	21.6	0.4
Raichur	25.4	21	0.4
COASTAL			
Honnavar	31.1	21.5	00
Karwar	32.8	22.5	00
Shirali	NA	NA	NA
Mangaluru	29.1	24.2	1.6

INTERIOR SOUTH			
Stations	Max	Min	Rain
Agumbe	27	18.3	00
Bengaluru	27.2	21	00
Ballari	NA	NA	NA
Chamarajanagar	NA	NA	NA
Chikkamagaluru	NA	NA	NA
Chitradurga	29.5	21	00
Davangere	29	19	00
Hassan	NA	NA	1.5
Mysuru	30	17.2	00
Madikeri	NA	NA	NA
Kolar	26.2	19.2	00
OTHER STATIONS			
New Delhi	30.2	22.4	00
Kolkata	31.1	22.4	00
Mumbai	31.1	22.4	00
Chennai	33.5	24.7	30
Pune	30.4	18.5	00
Hyderabad	29	23.4	02
Th'puram	32.6	25	00

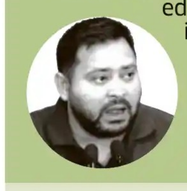
COUNTER

"Modi represents the ideals embodied by Ram and Laxman. On the other hand, Tejashwi and Lalu represents the legacy of Babur-Aurangzeb. The assembly polls are a battle between these two visions

Himanta Biswa Sarma
Assam Chief Minister

V/S

"All young friends, students– both boys and girls–leave the hostels and coaching centers and go to your villages to vote for better education-health-legal systems, industries-businesses, jobs-employment, and a better future



Tejashwi Yadav
RJD leader

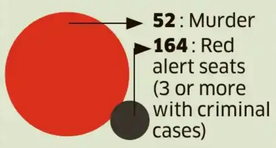
CANDIDATE SNAPSHOT

TOTAL SEATS: **243** CANDIDATES: **2,616**

Those with serious criminal cases: 695

Jan Suraaj	108
RJD	91
BJP	61
Congress	40
JD(U)	36

Cases involving crimes against women: 94



Crorepati candidates: 1,081

Jan Suraaj	167
RJD	127
JD(U)	92
BJP	88
Congress	49

Re-contesting MLAs: 192

17 : Illiterate candidates
4 : Candidates aged 80+

(SOURCE: ADR)

Poll diary

JD(U)'s Lalan claims FIR based on 'doctored' video

Union Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh 'Lalan' on Wednesday claimed that a video clip, which has led to an FIR against him over alleged violation of the model code of conduct in Bihar, was "doctored". The former JD(U) chief, who was booked under relevant sections of the BNSS and Representation of People Act for a speech he gave in Mokama, expressed confidence that the investigation will take into account "the full video footage" and will lead to his exoneration.

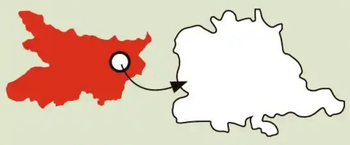
NDA 'Pandavas' will defeat Oppn's 'Ram drohis': Yogi

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Wednesday described the opposition I.N.D.I.A bloc in Bihar as "betrayers of Lord Ram" and said the five constituents of the ruling NDA in the state would defeat them like the "Pandavas". Yogi used the "Ram drohi" expression while raking up the police firing in Ayodhya in 1990, when late SP founder Mulayam Singh Yadav was the UP CM, and an affidavit in the Supreme Court submitted by the then Congress-led UPA government at the Centre stated "there was no evidence of existence" of the revered deity.

Jan Suraaj Munger nominee joins BJP day before polls

Sanjay Singh, the Jan Suraaj candidate from Bihar's Munger Assembly seat, joined the BJP on Wednesday, a day before the first phase of Assembly elections. Singh extended his support to Kumar Pranay, the BJP candidate from the seat. "Bihar has witnessed tremendous growth under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Nitish Kumar. I am confident that the state will continue to develop further under the NDA rule," Singh said. Meanwhile, BJP's sitting MLA from Pirpainti, Lalan Paswan, joined the RJD after being denied a party ticket, sources said.

CONSTITUENCY WATCH



VIJAY KUMAR KHEMKA
BJP
2020: Won

JITENDRA KUMAR YADAV
Congress
2020: Did not contest

Dad, son & an ex-DyCM in Katihar's VIP fight

In Seemanchal showdown, BJP veteran Tarkishore Prasad faces an unexpected challenger — his longtime aide's son

Saurabh Agarwal

Ashok Agarwal

SUMIT PANDE
KATIHAR, DHNS

For more reasons than one, Katihar, in the Seemanchal region of Bihar bordering West Bengal, has become a VIP seat in the 2025 elections.

Not just because the BJP has fielded one of its senior-most leaders and former deputy chief minister, Tarkishore Prasad, from here.

Prasad, a four-time MLA from Katihar, thought the going would be as smooth as the last time since the seat was being allocated by the I.N.D.I.A bloc to Mukesh Sahni's Vikassheel Insaan Party (VIP), though this has been a traditional Congress-RJD stronghold.

He was, however, in for a rude shock when the VIP announced its candidate: Saurabh Agarwal.

Saurabh is the son of Ashok Agarwal, a BJP Member of the State Legislative Council. A local strongman, Agarwal is said to be closely involved in managing the saffron party's resources in the state. In Katihar, for decades now, he has been a close aide of Tarkishore, canvassing and overseeing the former deputy CM's campaign since 2010. His hold over the district politics can be gauged from the fact that he was able to get his wife elected as the mayor of Katihar in 2022.

"My son is an adult and hence free to make his decisions. But I will continue to execute the responsibilities given to me by the party," Ashok Agarwal told local media after his son got a VIP ticket.

"Agarwal senior knows the ins and outs of Tarkishore's election strategy. That obviously makes the latter a little jittery," says VK Thakur, a senior journalist who now lives in Katihar.

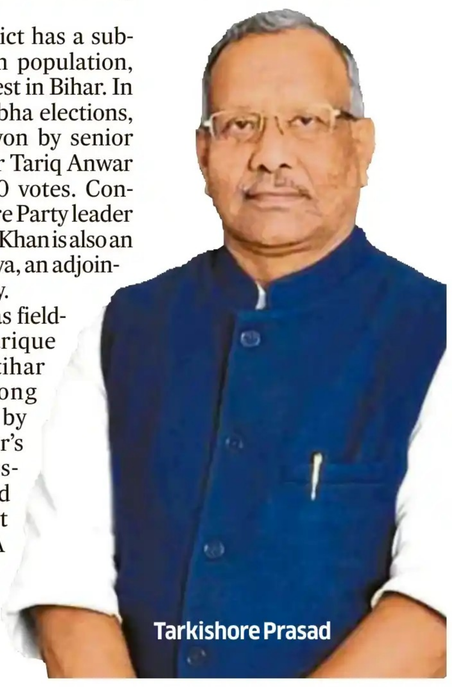
In fact, BJP MP from Jharkhand Nishikant Dubey met Agarwal after Saurabh filed nomination papers as the VIP candidate. "Ashok Agarwal is a BJP MLC. He told me that he remains with the party and will do whatever he can for the party."

"It is unfortunate that his son is contesting the elections. That's all I can say. We have never in life run after positions; we only execute the work allocated to the best of our ability," Tarkishore Prasad said when *DH* caught up with him during the campaign.

Katihar district has a substantial Muslim population, one of the highest in Bihar. In the last Lok Sabha elections, the seat was won by senior Congress leader Tariq Anwar by over 40,000 votes. Congress Legislature Party leader Shakeel Ahmed Khan is also an MLA from Kadva, an adjoining constituency.

Jan Suraaj has fielded Ghazi Sharique from the Katihar seat. A strong performance by Prashant Kishor's party in Muslim-dominated areas could split the I.N.D.I.A bloc votes to the BJP's advantage.

Voting in Katihar will be held in the second phase of the Bihar elections on November 11.



Tarkishore Prasad

PLOT TWIST

- BJP's Tarkishore Prasad expected a smooth run, until VIP fielded Saurabh Agarwal, son of BJP MLC Ashok Agarwal
- Ashok Agarwal has long been Tarkishore's campaign manager
- Congress' Tariq Anwar won the seat by 40,000 votes in LS polls
- Muslim vote split could tilt the balance in BJP's favour

Rahul alleges 'vote theft' plot in Bihar

Opposition leader presented few Bihar voters who claimed their names had been deleted

RAHUL GANDHI
Congress leader

"A systematic method has been evolved by the Prime Minister, the BJP, and the Election Commission to kill the Constitution and to kill Indian democracy

NEW DELHI, DHNS

Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday alleged that the next episode of "vote chori" (vote theft) will take place during the Bihar Assembly elections to "steal the government".

He said he was confident that he would be able to show that the same modus operandi used elsewhere in the country was employed to defeat the Opposition.

Addressing a press conference where he claimed large-scale voter manipulation in Haryana, where the BJP won the Assembly elections last year, Gandhi alleged that a system is now in place to steal votes and governments, and that it is being "industrialised".

He claimed that the same methods — including duplicate voters, bulk voters, voter registration using invalid addresses, and suspicious additions and deletions — will be used in Bihar.

"I am confident that after the Bihar election, we will show you that the same thing has happened in Bihar," he said, as some observers interpreted the remark as a tacit admission that the I.N.D.I.A bloc could lose the Bihar elections.

Anticipating scepticism over why such anomalies were not detected earlier, Gandhi said that political parties receive voter lists only at the last minute before elections.

"A systematic method has been evolved by the Prime Minister, the BJP, and the Election Commission to kill the Constitution and to kill Indian democracy," he said. At the press conference, Gandhi also presented a few voters from Bihar who claimed their names had been deleted from the electoral rolls.

BIHAR VOTES

Ravi Kumar Yadav from Bihar's Jamui said that 187 votes had been deleted in his village, while a disabled voter alleged that his name was removed on the grounds that he was not an ordinary resident of the area. Another voter, Mohd Ansari, claimed that his name too had been deleted, and when he enquired about the reason, officials told him it could not be reinstated.

Urging Gen Z and the youth to fight to protect democracy, Rahul said, "India's Gen Z and youth have the power to restore our democracy with satywa (truth) and ahimsa (non-violence). You should know that your democracy is being stolen."

"I was in shock; I simply could not believe what we found. I asked the team to cross-check multiple times. I want young people, Gen Z, to understand this clearly — your future is being stolen," Rahul said.

ELECTORAL OUTREACH

Bihar Chief Minister and Janata Dal (United) chief Nitish Kumar during a public rally ahead of the state Assembly polls, at Bhavani pur, in Purnia district. PTI

'Rahul trying to create anarchy with defence quota push'

BANKA/JAMUI/GAYAJI, PTI: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Wednesday alleged that Congress leader Rahul Gandhi was "trying to create anarchy" in the country by "demanding reservation in the armed forces".

Singh also took a jibe at Gandhi over his fishing bid during a campaign, alleging that the Congress leader has "no option left but to jump into a pond".

He also slammed Gandhi for levelling the 'vote chori' allegation, claiming that he is "targeting constitutional bodies without any basis".

From Amitabh Bachchan to Saif to Lalu, a starry namesake spin on ballot

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Is Amitabh Bachchan returning to politics after decades? Has Lalu Prasad Yadav turned against the RJD?

A glance at the list of 2,616 candidates in the Bihar Assembly elections might suggest so — but it's not the leaders themselves, rather their namesakes trying their luck at the ballot.

It's not just them. The Bihar polls also feature candidates named Atal Bihari (Vajpayee), Manmohan Singh and Subhash Chandra Bose.

Even though Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, Congress youth leader Kanhaiya Kumar and senior BJP MP Ravi Shankar Prasad are not in the fray, their namesakes are contesting.

In the Barh constituency, it's not the Bollywood icon who briefly dabbled in politics in the 1980s that's in the fray, but a namesake candidate from the Rashtriya Sanatan Party. Barh's Bachchan, a small-time contractor with declared assets of Rs 14.6 lakh, is making his electoral debut.

The candidate, Amitabh Bachchan, got his full name when a schoolteacher added the famous surname during his enrollment. "I'm contesting because there are murders happening. Hindus are unsafe. The poor don't get proper service in hospitals. We need change," he said.

In Manihari, Saif Ali Khan, a social worker with declared assets of just Rs 90,000, is contesting on an NCP ticket.

Since his disqualification following a corruption conviction, Lalu Prasad Yadav has not contested any election. However, in Marhaura, a candidate from the Rashtriya Jansambhavana Party bearing the RJD patriarch's name is in the fray against RJD's Jitendra Kumar Rai.

Yadav, who contested both Lok Sabha and Assembly elections unsuccessfully, told *DH* over the phone, "So many people have won, but nothing has changed on the development front. I will keep fighting for development."

Another namesake, who had filed nomination papers as an independent from Chiraia, later withdrew from the race.

A 42-year-old Manmohan Singh, an ex-serviceman who shares his name with the former prime minister, is contesting from Sandesh on a Rashtrawadi Janlok Party ticket. Meanwhile, Atal Bihari is in the fray from Beldaur as a candidate of the Garibjanta Party (Loktantrik).

The ballot also features four candidates named Nitish Kumar, contesting from Gurua (Rashtriya Lok Janshakti Party), Mohania (Asankhya Samaj Party), Jehanabad (Bhagidari Party (P)) and Brahampur (independent). Like CM Nitish, who is an electrical engineer, the independent candidate from Brahampur is a mining engineer.

GUESS WHO'S CONTESTING

- Contractor named Amitabh Bachchan fighting from Barh
- Lalu Prasad Yadav contesting from Marhaura, against RJD
- Saif Ali Khan is an NCP candidate from Manihari
- Ex-serviceman Manmohan Singh is in the fray from Sandesh; Atal Bihari in Beldaur
- Four candidates named Nitish Kumar in Gurua, Mohania, Jehanabad and Brahampur

TVK announces Vijay as chief ministerial candidate

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

Closing the alliance doors on AIADMK and BJP, albeit for now, TVK on Wednesday announced that party president, Vijay, will be the chief ministerial candidate for the 2026 assembly polls.

In his first public appearance after the Karur tragedy, Vijay told party cadre that the September 27 incident was a 'temporary setback' and asked them to be 'battle-ready' to fight the DMK.

Vijay devoted his entire 14-minute speech during the Special General Council meeting to target Chief Minister M K Stalin on the Karur stampede and read operative portions from the Supreme Court verdict that transferred the case to the CBI to drive home his point that he was not at fault and that the government failed to provide adequate protection to his rally.

TVK founder-chief Vijay meets supporters at the party's special general council meeting on Wednesday. PTI

"When nature and god in the form of the people of Tamil Nadu stand with us, who can stop our political activities? We will break all obstacles and stand firm with the people. We will be successful in our journey. I repeat, the 2026 contest is only between two parties – TVK and DMK," Vijay said.

"This fight will get stronger. We will win 100%. Be confident that a new era will usher in. We will emerge victorious and script history," he added. His speech came after one of the 12 resolutions passed at the General Council named him as the chief ministerial candidate and authorised him to decide on alliances.

Vijay's remarks will be a rude shock to the AIADMK and BJP, which have been appealing to the actor to join their alliance.

AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami had in October commented that the first step for a formal alliance had been initiated after TVK flags were spotted at his public rallies.

No alliance

By reiterating that Vijay will be the chief minister and projecting the 2026 contest between DMK and TVK, Vijay has sent out a message that he won't be part of any alliance and instead will lead a political combine with parties that accept his leadership.

Sources in TVK told *DH* that the party believes that contesting alone in the debut elections was the only way to assess the strength of Vijay. "There is no way a person with a huge popularity like Vijay can join an alliance. It will be a huge blow to his image," a source said.

In his speech, Vijay asked Stalin to 'understand' that people's trust in him and his government has completely eroded and that the election results will reflect this 'harsh reality'.

He also said it was high time that the DMK prepared the statement it will release to concede defeat after elections, claiming that people have decided to elect the TVK to power.

Vijay said Stalin's speech in the Assembly on October 15, which laid the blame on Vijay's delayed arrival for the stampede, reeked of "malice" and vowed to enter the House to respond to those allegations.

"I was in pain and distress. During the time of my silence and mourning, meaningless rumours and malicious political narratives were spread and forced upon us," he added.

As Kerala elections loom, CPI unlikely to prolong tussle with CPM over PM SHRI scheme

ARJUN RAGHUNATH
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS

Despite being unhappy over the delay in informing the Centre about the decision to freeze the implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Schools for Rising India (PM SHRI) scheme in Kerala, the CPI in the state is unlikely to continue an open revolt against the CPM over it, as elections are due in the state.

The Centre disbursed Rs 92.4 crore to the state on Tuesday on account of the long-pending dues under the Samagra Shiksha Kerala (SSK) scheme, which is believed to be a sequel to the MoU signed by the Kerala education department with the Centre recently for implementing PM SHRI.

ROOT CAUSE

- CPI considers making state govt admit its lapse in deciding to implement scheme without discussion a political victory
- Both CPI and CPM see scheme as a ploy to impose BJP-RSS ideologies in education
- But CPM justified signing MoU by saying Central govt was withholding funds

Although the state cabinet meeting held on October 29 decided to freeze the MoU following the CPI's strong protest, the education department has not conveyed the matter to the Centre even after a week.

State general education minister V Sivankutty told reporters that it was in the process of sending the letter to the Centre after getting a legal opinion. He also said only funds due to the state were received.

Political view

The CPI is of the view that it has already earned a political victory on the matter by making the government admit its lapse in taking the decision to implement PM SHRI without discussion.

The CPM and the CPI are of the view that PM SHRI is a ploy of the Centre to impose the BJP-RSS ideologies in the education sector. However, the CPM was justifying the decision to sign the MoU, citing that the Centre was withholding funds.

DECCAN HERALD
ESTABLISHED 1948

Digital arrests: SC's alarm a call for action

The Supreme Court's expression of concern over cybercrimes, especially in forms such as digital arrests, and directives to counter these crimes, underline the criticality of the matter. It is estimated that over Rs 3,000 crore has been extorted from people by cyber criminals who posed as law enforcement officers, court officials, or other authorities. The actual figure may be higher since many cases are not reported. These recurring frauds not only cause financial losses to the victims but also leave them mentally stressed and traumatised. NITI Aayog had flagged the rise of digital fraud some time ago, and the Prime Minister had mentioned it in his *Mann Ki Baat* programme. Police and other state agencies have continued to alert citizens about the possibilities of different forms of cybercrime. Regular public awareness campaigns have also not found results – the number of cybersecurity incidents rose from 10.29 lakh in 2022 to 22.68 lakh in 2024.

Over 85% of Indian households are now connected to the internet, providing a large base of operations for the criminals. The remote nature of activities provides cover for the fraudsters, and if arrest records are any indication, they operate at a lower risk than conventional criminals. Often, the fraud involves psychological manoeuvring that exploits the ignorance, fear, and insecurity of people, especially senior citizens. There have been instances of people being held under digital arrest for days and being deprived of sleep and daily chores. The profiles of victims have defied patterns – bankers, judges, and even police personnel attached to anti-cybercrime units have been at the receiving end.

Rising cybercrime warrants stronger policing. The apex court's directives can provide crucial impetus

The apex court said it was considering the matter seriously and would pass stringent orders to strengthen the hands of enforcement agencies to deal with these crimes. It started the proceedings after a woman from Haryana wrote to the Chief Justice of India (CJI) that she was placed under digital arrest based on forged court 'orders' and defrauded of over Rs 1 crore. The Court had told the CBI to look into the issue. The agency informed the Court about the challenges in investigating such cases. Many of the perpetrators are located in Myanmar, Laos, and Cambodia. They leverage the latest technologies, use AI in their operations, and have consistently managed to stay ahead of the investigating agencies. The Court has appointed an *amicus curiae* for counsel on the matter. For the agencies, it will be a long game with no assured outcomes, but the special interest taken by the Supreme Court will, hopefully, provide the momentum they need.

Street flavours, now with a safety tag

The Karnataka High Court's directive to formulate hygiene and safety regulations for street vendors and food trucks marks a progressive step in the evolution of India's food governance. While disposing of a petition filed by major hotel associations in the state, Justice M Nagaprasanna directed that the Centre categorise guidelines under the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) based on the scale of operations – small, medium, and large establishments. This approach, if implemented with sensitivity and foresight, can ensure that equitable and rigorous standards of food safety apply across the full spectrum, from fine dining to the humble roadside cart. Significantly, the court anchored its reasoning in the global framework of the *Codex Alimentarius*, an international reference system established by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and the World Health Organisation (WHO) to promote food safety, fair trade practices, and consumer confidence. By invoking a benchmark that governs everything from food additives to handling of raw materials, the court has asserted that India's food safety architecture can no longer remain insular in an interconnected world where hygiene, health, and commerce converge. Effective implementation of such standards could elevate the standing of Karnataka and India's celebrated street food sector on the global stage.

Street-food grading is welcome, but enforcement must not be a pretext to exclude small players

The sector feeds millions each day, serving as a vital source of affordable nourishment and an expression of the nation's culinary diversity. Yet it largely operates in an informal environment where hygiene lapses are frequent. The purpose of graded regulation must not be punitive but transformative, raising standards without stifling enterprise or eroding livelihoods. The emphasis should be on capacity building through training, standardised operating procedures, and access to essential infrastructure such as clean water and waste disposal. With such support, street cuisine can aspire to match the exacting benchmarks of 'Michelin food streets' in cities like Bangkok and Singapore.

However, the path to reform must be carefully, even delicately, trodden. The greatest danger lies in letting regulation become a pretext for harassment or exclusion of small operators. Excessive compliance costs, opaque licensing norms, or arbitrary enforcement could turn a well-intentioned policy into another instrument of exploitation. To prevent this, the framework must be simple, transparent, participatory, and fair. The High Court has shown the way by marrying a graded system with a global outlook. It is now incumbent upon both the state and central governments to strike a fine balance between public health and economic sustenance. If this succeeds, our street food can not only be safe, but also world-class.

THE BROKEN STEEL FRAME

Corrupt *babu*s and the rewards of conformity

The case of the Punjab DIG is another marker on the complex disease of corruption in Indian bureaucracy

JAGDISH RATTANANI

A Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of police in Punjab has been arrested in a case of corruption that boggles the mind – audacious, obscene and grotesque all at the same time. That this officer could amass such loot and live a normal working life in the top echelons speaks of the extent of collapse and its normalisation within a bureaucracy that once was referred to as the "steel frame of India". The rapaciousness could not be unknown to his peers and to the government, revealing the extent to which deviant behaviour is accepted in the force.

The case quickly turned complicated with a tussle between the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), which effected the arrest on October 16, and the State's Vigilance Bureau, for custody of the accused IPS officer, Harcharan Singh Bhullar. The reported seizures are eye-popping – Rs 7.5 crore in cash, a collection of luxury cars, gold jewellery weighing 2.5 kg, 26 luxury watches, and documents on about 50 immovable properties in the names of family members and suspected *benami* entities. At one level, this is an open-and-shut case of loot and plunder, but at another, the CBI-State tussle points to a deeper rot, a complicated set of connections, and motives with political implications. Whatever emerges, the officer in question will be hard put to defend himself with all that the CBI has got against him – including a voice call in which the accused discusses further steps about a bribe paid to his middleman.

The case here is unusual but not unique. The system protects many, but scandals emerge at regular intervals, sending periodic shocks that reveal to us that corruption is endemic in the Indian system and thrives in the bureaucracy. The disease is complex, given that it comes in various forms and flavours and is fuelled by patronage politics. Bribery is but one part of a larger canvas of corrupt practices that include (particularly in the current Indian context) cronyism, the misuse of investigative agencies or that uniquely Indian coinage called "wilful default".

Yet, complexity is no reason for allowing the disease to continue unchecked. The late academic and founder of the Management Centre for Human Values at IIM Calcutta, S K Chakraborty, in a seminal paper in 1997, spoke of the difference between "gross corruption" and "subtle unethicality". Even if the latter is challenging to recognise and fight, the former is easily spotted and deserves to be guillotined. If corruption is a hydra-headed monster, cutting the more visible head is more important than discussing which head to cut first. The reluctance to take strong steps breeds deep cynicism and a sense of helplessness.

Some of the key arguments made in favour of liberalisation – that the corrupt licence-permit-Raj will be demolished and corruption will be checked automatically when the market takes over – have proven hollow. Gross corruption has stayed, and the nation has been burdened further by a subtler, business-political axis of corruption that plunders State resources and tilts the rules at the cost of the common man.

Selective in intervention

The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), which recruits the nation's top-ranked bureaucracy, including the IAS and the IPS cadres, would do well to reflect on the ask of Babasaheb Ambedkar from it: "The function of the public service commission is to choose people who are fit for public service".

Is the recruitment process wrong or does the system have a way of co-opting new candidates into its club and its instincts of self over the rest of India? The terms of appointment of officers in themselves are cushy and non-demanding. They encourage the mentality of a life-long club membership from which it is difficult to be evicted. The tenure system, at the outset, encourages candidates who prefer the safety net of a life-long employment at the highest level in government, the perks that come with the appointments and a wide range of privileges rather than curiosity, creativity, and the idea of public service that Ambedkar spoke of.

While political interference is a valid reason for the decline, there is also the question of the character of the bureaucracy when no voice is raised against such wild violations as encounter killings, bulldozer justice or the grave violations of the Election Commission of India alleged by the Leader of the Opposition, Rahul Gandhi and independent observers such as Yogendra Yadav. Instead, the IAS Officers Association thought it fit to come to the defence of the Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar while the body remained silent on the dissent of Election Commissioner Ashok Lavasa, who in 2019 had opposed clearing the Prime Minister and Home Minister on charges of violating the model code of conduct during the elections, and saw his family members targeted with income tax notices. Lavasa was a rare officer with high integrity.

Independence and integrity have become myths. Bent spines are the norm. The oft-heard cry to stop political interference is a meaningless sidebar for a bunch whose signature call is to bend for self-preservation and exploit at the first opportunity. Experience confirms the rottenness that thrives. The failed system may be beyond reform. The bureaucrats who helped craft the Agni Veer programme so that soldiers leave after five years need to be told that such a programme must be applied to the IAS and the IPS. Instead, time-scale promotions are the norm. *Babu*s must be held to account for their KPIs, not time spent or positions held. We may need many other shocks alongside to check the corrupt and demand performance in the mould former prime minister V P Singh once saw it: "What have I to do with your so-called merit when you don't have a heart for the people you serve?"

(The writer is a journalist and faculty member at SPJIMR; Syndicate: The Billion Press)

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

The rattle of memory

With all its flaws, I still looked at the cycle as one would at a beloved

HABEEB AHAMED

The bicycle was my dream Pegasus. My ardent desire to own one, however, remained just that—a dream. During my school days, a friend of mine had a bicycle that was very old and in shambles. Its brand name had long faded, and the nameplate—usually riveted between the handle and the front wheel, right below the headlight—had disappeared like horns from a donkey's head, leaving behind a small scar visible only to curious eyes.

The bicycle appeared to be of a good brand. But with the passage of time, every part had worn out. Yet, it remained functional—thanks to regular greasing of joints and liberal oiling of the ball bearings. The brake lever, sagging like an old man's denture, was held in place with a wire. The hoots and toots that came from every joint had been quietened over time, though not all the rattles could be muted. The rear mudguard, for instance, tied with a wire to the stand next to the seat, would rattle rhythmically—creating, to my young ears, beautiful music straight out of an R D Burman tune.

I never missed a chance to push it along. But when I tried riding it once, the hard, sun-scorched seat made me jump off instantly. I pitied my trousers and decided it was better to push than to pedal. Still, with all its flaws and defects, I used to look at that bicycle the way one might look at a beloved — convinced that, with a little care, it could be smoothed into perfection.

My friend's father mostly used the bicycle to fetch vegetables from the Bengaluru City Market for his small shop in our neighbourhood. The rest of the day, it stood parked beside the shop, idle. My friend, however, proudly took it along wherever he went -- just to brag about owning a bicycle.

After school, we all scattered into different colleges to pursue further studies. Many of us joined PUC, while my 'cycle friend' joined a polytechnic course. Once in a while, we met at our usual haunts in Bengaluru —Breeze Restaurant on Brigade Road or Hotel Elite near Majestic. Over cups of 'fractional' tea, we would spend hours chatting away.

One evening, as we stepped out of Elite, a Route No 16 bus slowed at the corner. We jumped aboard, laughing, as it gathered speed. My 'cycle friend' hopped along too, and we all went home happy. That night, he woke up with a start, realising he had left the bicycle chained to the hotel compound grill. In panic, he got dressed to go retrieve it—then stopped himself with a wry smile and a reassuring thought: "Who would ever want my bicycle?" Comforted, he went back to sleep. The next morning, he walked confidently to Hotel Elite—and there it was, exactly where he had left it.

That incident became the comic highlight of our youth, a story we laughed about for years. My friend is no more, but the laughter lingers.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The government must ensure compliance with safety guidelines

The editorial 'A deadly cycle of errors and neglect' (Nov 5) rightly highlights the recurring tragedy of stampedes in India and the systemic negligence that allows them to continue. It is deeply concerning that such disasters, though preventable, keep reoccurring due to poor crowd management, lack of preparedness, and weak enforcement of safety norms. Despite clear guidelines from the National Disaster Management Authority and the National Building Code, authorities and event organisers often fail to assess crowd sizes and implement proper control measures. The absence of accountability, coupled with delayed inquiries and minimal punishment for lapses, perpetuates this cycle of neglect. It is imperative that the government enforces stricter compliance with safety guidelines, ensures proper training of security personnel, and takes swift action against those responsible for negligence. Only through proactive measures, continuous monitoring, and public awareness can we prevent further loss of innocent lives.
Kevin Austin F, Bengaluru

Preventable stampedes

This refers to 'At least 9 dead in stampede at Andhra temple' (Nov 2). Stampedes during festivals, pilgrimages and fan gatherings have become disturbingly common in India. The recent tragedy in Andhra Pradesh follows earlier incidents such as the stampede during actor Vijay's rally and the horrific one at Bengaluru's Chinnaswamy Stadium, which claimed many lives. Temple authorities reportedly did not anticipate such a large crowd, but that cannot be an excuse. Proper law and order arrangements and effective crowd management are essential for public safety. After repeated tragedies, it is high time temple administrations and organising bodies enforced strict entry and exit controls and ensured adequate deployment of police personnel. A pilgrimage should be a moment of spiritual fulfilment, not a scene of chaos and loss.
Sunita Munda, Bengaluru

English as link language

Siddaramaiah's statement at the Kannada Rajyotsava event that he was personally in favour of the two-language formula is commendable, as it can be implemented uniformly across the country and ensures equality among citizens. However, his allegation that the BJP-led central government is responsible for the imposition of Hindi is not accurate. The issue has its roots in the past, including the Congress government's role in implementing the three-language formula in non-Hindi speaking states. The solution lies in making English the official and link language and incorporating the two-language formula into the Constitution.
K R Jayaprakash Rao, Mysuru

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: **letters@deccanherald.co.in** (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender's postal address and phone number.

SPEAK OUT

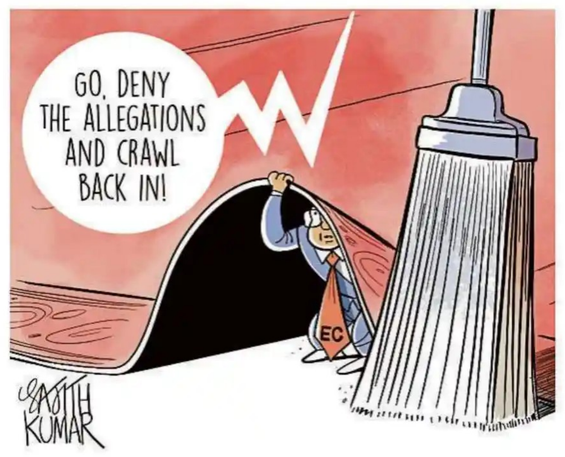
Rahul Gandhi's statement is not only misleading but also an anti-India act. He is deliberately attempting to create mistrust among voters and weaken faith in the country's democratic process...

Kiren Rijiju, Union Minister

Shooting the messenger tends to validate the message you are trying to ignore.

Norm Hull

TO BE PRECISE



IN PERSPECTIVE

My life is only comedy, boss

For the struggling comedian, survival in Bengaluru may hinge on hard busking and finding the right cliques

SPATICA RAMANUJAM

I just want to say I'm happy no comedian I know in Bengaluru has an active reading habit. So please don't send this to any of them – unless you think I can be their opening act.

Once, when I was busking outside a comedy club in the city, I said, "Please come and watch stand-up comedy," and a guy replied, "No thanks, my life is only comedy, boss!" It reminded me of what my theatre teacher in London said: "*The only difference between comedy and tragedy is timing.*" Of course, I mentioned that to brag that I studied theatre in London.

Comic timing is everything – especially the timing of when you start doing comedy. I started in my mid-40s, or as it's more commonly called, senior-citizen age. Don't give me that BS that "age is in your head." It's not. It's in my legs – they get tired faster from busking. If you don't believe me, ask any young comic (apparently that's what comedians are called now; in my generation, *Indrajaal* and *Tinkle* were the comics). They don't call me "Aunty" out of sheer politeness.

Let's unpack "busking" a bit. I love that word – *unpack*. In London, I thought buskers were beggars. I took pity on them until I dated one who had an apartment bigger than mine. Then I pitied myself.

In Bengaluru, busking is begging. Begging strangers to watch your comedy show. At first, I had to fight some serious suicidal tendencies. With no money for therapy, I fought it alone. I thought twenty years of being a trained theatre actor would've taken me somewhere. Instead, here I was, a senior citizen standing on the road asking strangers to watch a comedy show. Then I saw famous comics do it too. I ate the humble pie.

Open mics are fascinating. They're meant to test material on unsuspecting strangers. They're also a crash course in anatomy – a biology refresher, really. A favourite subject for male comics is private parts, mostly theirs. And when it's an act on dating, the girlfriend's. They describe how it stands up, sits down, undergoes mood swings... I'm glad men are finally touching – sorry, *getting in touch* – with their emotions. I just pity the audience; they came expecting comedy and got porn instead.

The bro code

Another favourite is bashing feminism. From being to a fair number of open mics, I now gather that it is a term for a woman who doesn't like... anything. Like it's so ubiquitous. I love using fancy words like 'ubiquitous'; I can't use it in a comedy set because no one will understand, and I'll be labelled "that English comic!"

I have a recurring dream of a male comic's act that goes: "I asked the girl on a date, 'Do you want Chinese food?' She said no. I asked if she wanted Japanese. She said no. I asked if she wanted Indian. She said no. So on another date with a woman, I told her, 'I hope you're not some kind of feminist who hates all food?'"

Okay, bad joke. But in dreams, you're allowed bad jokes.

Sometimes I wish these comics *had* a reading habit. Some basic education on feminism would help. Maybe open mic venues could host classes during the day. I'll happily teach. It broke my heart to hear even a female comic bash feminism.

I love the comedy club bros – they drink, gossip, busk together, give each other comedy performance spots. I want to belong to those cliques. I want to tell them I'm a feminist, but a harmless one. After all, I'm a senior citizen, too tired to bash anyone, let alone men.

Once, after my set on dating a younger guy, the host said, "Hey, I've heard of sugar daddies, but ever heard of a sugar mommy?" The audience went silent. The host got irritated and said, "You're all such feminists, bro!"

Apparently, all female comics talk about menstruation, so I've stopped doing that. Apparently, they all do male-bashing too. I've never done that – I'm not that stupid. I don't want to end my career before it even takes off.

Basically, I just want you readers to keep an eye out for me and come watch my show. And if you're a producer, this was a long-winded pitch to take notice of me, since you won't respond to my Instagram DMs. I need a Susie Myerson, the tough producer from *The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel.* She's a producer by day and a feminist by night. Until then, you'll find me busking on the streets of Bengaluru.

(The writer is a stand-up comedian and actor based in Bengaluru)

From guns to gigs: Kashmir's youth plug into digital economy

DATELINE Srinagar

ZULFIKAR MAJID

The laptop and smartphone are quietly replacing the gun and stone in Kashmir. In homes once haunted by uncertainty and anger, young men and women now sit before glowing screens — writing code, editing videos, designing logos, or uploading reels. Across the Valley, a new generation is logging into India's digital economy — freelancing, coding, creating content, and selling online — and finding hope where conflict once ruled.

With smartphones in their hands and steady Internet at their fingertips, Kashmiri youth are earning in rupees and dollars, not slogans. From downtown Srinagar to remote Kupwara, they are discovering livelihoods once unimaginable in the Valley's long years of turmoil. It is a quiet digital uprising — powered by Wi-Fi, not warfare.

The transformation has been slow but steady. A decade ago, curfews and shutdowns defined Kashmir's youth experience. Now, the same generation that grew up under siege is building online careers. The conflict that once dictated their destiny is giving way to connectivity.

Young people who once looked towards government jobs now work with Indian and international clients from their bedrooms. Graphic designers, content writers, app developers, and digital marketers from Kashmir are active on freelancing platforms, earning incomes that rival salaried professionals. Many are self-taught, driven by curiosity, necessity, and the easy access to tutorials on YouTube.

The pandemic years, when remote work became a global norm, accelerated this trend in Kashmir. Internet stability after years of restrictions created a new confidence. Cafés and shared workspaces are springing up in Srinagar, Anantnag, and Baramulla. A culture of self-reliance is emerging where dependency and despair once dominated.

Equally remarkable is the rise of digital creators. Kashmiri youth are finding their voice on YouTube, Instagram, and other platforms — telling their own stories, monetising their art, and connecting to audiences far beyond the Valley. From travel vloggers capturing unseen corners of Kashmir to musicians releasing original tracks and comedians producing short sketches, social media has become both a stage and a source of income.

A generation that once saw protest as expression is now using video and storytelling as a means of empowerment. Many creators have crossed the 100,000-subscriber mark on YouTube and earn steady monthly income through ads, sponsorships, and collaborations. Others are using Instagram and Facebook for small business marketing — selling traditional crafts, home décor, baked goods, and apparel directly to customers.

For young women, this shift has been especially liberating. Social media has opened up work-from-home possibilities in a conservative environment. Many are managing online boutiques, baking ventures, and crochet stores, while others teach languages and skills through live sessions. Where traditional spaces limited women's participation, the digital world has created new freedom — economic, social, and creative.

The monetisation of digital content has also introduced a new idea of success in Kashmir — one that does not depend on political patronage or government employment. Influencers now travel to Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad and Bengaluru for collaborations, and Kashmiri brands advertise through Instagram creators instead of hoardings. The digital marketplace has blurred the boundaries between Srinagar and the rest of the country, giving youth a sense of belonging to a wider economy.

The change is visible in everyday life. At Srinagar's cafés, laptops have replaced newspapers, and talk of algorithms has replaced political gossip. Young men once drawn to street protests now discuss app development or camera gear. The desire to be heard remains, but the medium has changed — from street slogans to digital storytelling.

A quiet psychological shift accompanies this economic one. Years of conflict had created a deep sense of helplessness among the youth, with many seeing anger as their only expression of agency. But the digital economy has opened new doors. Through freelancing or content creation, they can now assert control over their lives, build audiences, and engage with the world on their own terms.

This transformation is not without challenges. Frequent power cuts, poor infrastructure in rural districts, and social stigma around "online work" persist. Many young freelancers still hide their income from sceptical elders who ask when they will find a "real job". Connectivity disruptions, too, remain a constant anxiety — every network suspension translates into a professional setback. Yet despite these hurdles, the optimism is palpable.

For the first time in decades, a significant section of them is interacting daily with peers, clients, and collaborators across states and countries — on professional, not political, terms. The Internet, once seen as a threat or a surveillance tool, is increasingly becoming an enabler of opportunity.

The change is subtle but profound. In the same downtown lanes that once echoed with angry slogans, co-working spaces now hum with the quiet clatter of keyboards. Where stone-pelting once marked rebellion, editing software and payment notifications now mark progress. The idea of dignity — long eroded by conflict and dependency — is being rediscovered through digital empowerment.

There is no single leader or movement driving this transformation, no visible banner or rally. It is a revolution of individuals — each choosing creativity over confrontation, ambition over anger. Every Kashmiri youth who sells a design online, uploads a monetised video, or codes for a client outside the Valley adds a pixel to a larger picture of change.

Kashmir's story, once dominated by images of barbed wire and bunkers, is slowly acquiring a new vocabulary — one of start-ups, subscribers, and self-employment. The Wi-Fi signal has become a new symbol of hope. **DHNS**

Zohran Mamdani's election as New York City's next mayor marks a generational and ideological shift in American urban politics

DH ILLUSTRATION: DEEPAK HARICHANDAN

Why Mamdani won

DAVID WALLACE-WELLS

The largest and richest city in America now has a 34-year-old democratic socialist Muslim as mayor-elect. Zohran Mamdani will be the youngest person to run New York City in over 130 years, the second card-carrying DSA member and the very first Muslim. His shocking triumph in the Democratic mayoral primary was almost five months ago, making his victory last night feel almost like old news. But it shouldn't.

I am 43 years old and have lived almost my entire life in New York City. Never across those decades has the city elevated someone to such power so quickly — not even close. In February Mamdani was barely registering 1% in polls and putting out videos about "*halalflation*." On Tuesday he won more votes in the city than Michael Bloomberg did in any of his three campaigns for mayor — more votes, in fact, than any New York City mayoral candidate since 1969. Along the way, he expanded the electorate and earned some glowing comparisons to Barack Obama, somewhat more measured analogies to Bill de Blasio and an awful lot of fear-mongering backlash and low-road counteroffensives.

In the campaign's closing weeks, Mamdani's rival, former Gov Andrew Cuomo, described the race as a central front in a civil war for the Democratic Party. Cuomo and his surrogates desperately caricatured Mamdani as both a woke extremist and an Islamic fundamentalist, making common cause with President Trump and flooding social media with hateful AI slop. Mamdani cut a different profile — looking not like a Manchurian candidate but instead like the embodiment of publicly financed elections, pitching the promise of a new generation's politics to a disengaged electorate. On election night he took a more strident tone, opening his acceptance speech by quoting Eugene Debs and pointedly picking a fight with Trump.

Everyone seems to want to make an election like this mean something beyond New York. Is this the arrival of a progressive Tea Party? The return of the Bernie Sanders surge and squad years? A repudiation of the Democratic Party's cautious moderation in the run-up to the 2024 presidential election (and even more emphatically in the aftermath)? Or something else altogether new?

To my eyes, it's a strain to make Mamdani's victory an immediately representative national story, but his coalition does suggest one lesson for national Democrats. In recent years, we've gotten used to looking out at the changing landscape of politics and seeing a right-wing alliance of working Americans and wealthy people, united by disdain for a professional managerial class seen as liberal scolds. Mamdani's win illustrates a different alignment. He brought the working, middle and upper-middle classes together in what I called back in July an "emergent coalition of the precariat" — united in part by a growing affordability crisis and in part by simple rage about income inequality, corruption and the entitlement and impunity of the very rich. What looks like populism can appeal to a pretty broad swath of white-collar college grads, too.

One of the most remarkable aspects of Mamdani's victory is that, faced with months of scepticism about his agenda and fear-mongering about his identity, his lead has been steady. In June you might have thought the bubble would eventually burst, given the amount of energy and money that was being spent on puncturing it. But Mamdani demonstrated an exceptional talent for mixing what are sometimes called "material" politics and "postmaterial" ones. Unshakably on-message about kitchen-table issues, he served up a transformational vibe via vertical video and through direct canvassing. Watching the campaign up close, it's almost hard to understand how many political observers have treated social media and concrete policy as such distinct, even contradictory, spheres. Each feeds the other, expanding the sense of what's possible by making transformational rhetoric more tangible and even small-bore policy changes more consequential.

Although Mamdani's critics painted his platform as irresponsibly radical, his agenda mostly extends initiatives first enacted or proposed by previous mayors: Bloomberg tried making some buses free and started a program that brought produce carts to food deserts; in addition to freezing rents in stabilised units three times, de Blasio established universal public pre-K and made headway on free 3-K, a program Mayor Eric Adams eventually came around to support, too. You may have heard that Mamdani wants to end gifted and talented programmes in the city's public schools, but he seems more focused on ending it for kindergartners, rather than getting rid of the city's separate entry point for third graders. His tax hikes are not especially onerous, though they also are not likely to be as popular in Albany, which will actually decide. And his proposal to end mayoral control of schools may prove just as complicated.

But it would be a mistake to see Mamdani's victory as a modest or inconsequential one just because it is likely to produce halting progress. Many of his voters, like many of his critics, also saw the campaign as a skirmish in a kind of civil war — and one they won. "This city is your city," the mayor-elect said on election night, "and this democracy is yours, too."

As a result, his win has already helped re-sketch the geography of status within the city — perhaps the most immediate effect of election night. Bloomberg was a Manhattan mayor, his Upper East Side townhouse as recognisable a landmark as Gracie Mansion. De Blasio was a cartoon of gentrified Brooklyn and Adams a machine-politics avatar of the borough's outer reaches (with a little Zero Bond energy thrown in). Mamdani was raised in Upper Manhattan around the Columbia campus, and a lot of his voters live in the neighbourhoods along the Brooklyn side of the East River, which the analyst Michael Lange memorably called the "Commie Corridor." But as a mayor, he looks more like he may be the face of the new Queens, a borough which gave rise to Trump and is now the most diverse county in the continental United States.

The triumph signals subtler shifts, too: away from car drivers and homeowners and toward bus riders and renters; away from finance and toward small business; away from boomers and toward zoomers; away from an old rulebook about the city's politics, particularly around Israel, and toward a new one, which at least acknowledges the fact that the city is home to nearly as many Muslims as Jews.

This is one aspect of the campaign that does tell a national story, and not just because the anti-Mamdani coalition has hyped it so aggressively. This summer, Gallup found that only 8% of Democrats supported Israel's military action in Gaza, and the declines aren't simply generational, with bigger drops of support among older Democrats than younger ones. It is not entirely clear what path the Democratic Party will take on Israel going forward, but Mamdani's win is one sign among many that the old party consensus is tenuous. This also explains some of the sheer intensity of the anti-Mamdani animosity, which has been nearly as startling as his rise.

Sceptics may hamper Mamdani's mayoralty, as they did to a degree for de Blasio 12 years ago, when that mayor staged his own improbable victory over the establishment heir apparent, Christine Quinn, with his *Tale of Two Cities*" campaign. A dozen years later, that message still packs a punch in both directions: mobilising the marginalised and agitating the affluent.

For New Yorkers nervous about a Mamdani mayoralty, the last few weeks should be at least somewhat reassuring. He has said that he plans to ask the NYPD commissioner Jessica Tisch to stay on board, perhaps as an olive branch to the city's elites, who love her. After waffling for most of the campaign, he told reporters on Election Day that he was voting yes on all the YIMBY housing ballot measures. And most of the people he is reportedly considering for top positions in his administration are experienced bureaucrats rather than ideological agents or personal allies, suggesting that he is prioritising making the city run as much as he is hoping to remodel it. It was an idea he repeated again and again while campaigning: Competence and efficiency shouldn't be conservative buzzwords but progressive value.

As long as Mamdani is in office, the city will be home to haters. But as the temperature of the campaign season cools, the bigger challenge will likely come not from those in New York but from those in Washington. One hater in particular: Trump.

The New York Times

The hidden toll of student stress

JAIS MERLIN P AUGUSTINE, G ANKITA NAIDU AND AASHANA CHALISE

Beneath the surface of Bengaluru's vibrant student life lies an unspoken strain — the pressure to meet family expectations and conform to societal ideals. As we observe the International Stress Awareness Week (November 3–7, 2025), it is vital to reflect on how cultural conditioning shapes young people's mental health. Across campuses, students juggle academics, internships, and social media while trying to appear confident and composed. Behind this facade lies quiet exhaustion—the result of being taught to please others rather than acknowledge one's emotions.

Despite growing awareness and easier access to counselling and self-care tools, many students still hesitate to seek help. The reluctance is rooted in stigma. In a society that equates vulnerability with weakness, young people often suppress distress, fearing judgement from family or peers. Stress becomes internalised as a personal failure rather than a collective experience shared by many.

On college campuses, stress often hides behind busy routines. Students may discuss mental health as a social issue yet remain silent about their own struggles. Conversations about anxiety and burnout are more visible on social media than in real life. For many, it feels easier to post about self-care online than to admit vulnerability to parents or mentors. This digital openness without emotional honesty reflects how mental health discourse remains surface-level.

Cultural stigma intensifies this silence. Families may treat stress or fatigue as signs of weakness or lack of gratitude, teaching students to equate composure with strength. Even when counselling is available, the fear of being labelled "unstable" or "overreacting" keeps many from seeking help. Over time, suppression leads to exhaustion, depression, and burnout. The weight of these hidden pressures shows why a cultural shift is essential—one that allows young people to express distress without shame.

Technology, trust, and sensitivity

Digital platforms like Headspace, BetterMe, and India's Manoshala have made mental health support more accessible through meditation, therapy, and mood-tracking tools. For students balancing academics and part-time work, such tools offer flexible self-care options. However, technology alone cannot dismantle cultural barriers. Many hesitate to use mental health apps publicly, fearing judgement for appearing "weak". This gap between innovation and acceptance highlights that awareness must evolve into social acceptance.

Concerns about trust and data privacy also shape how students use these tools. Many question how securely their personal information is stored and who might access it. The fear of surveillance often outweighs the comfort of convenience. Platforms that combine technological ease with strong privacy safeguards and access to trained counsellors tend to earn greater trust.

India's cultural and linguistic diversity demands digital solutions that are both secure and culturally sensitive. Hybrid models that connect users to counsellors have worked internationally and could be adapted effectively here. Developers should collaborate with students and psychologists to make platforms relatable, empathetic, and safe. Regular feedback and updates can build user confidence, helping students engage with these tools without fear or hesitation.

Addressing student stress requires more than awareness campaigns — it calls for redefining strength as the courage to seek help and fostering environments where vulnerability is accepted. Colleges can lead this change by normalising conversations on mental health, integrating wellness programmes into academic life, and offering confidential counselling. Educators who speak openly about stress model a healthier perspective that resilience includes vulnerability. Families, too, must nurture emotional openness, replacing silence with empathy and understanding.

Many students admit that digital tools help them manage stress but wish they could use them freely without feeling watched. This reflects a broader discomfort with discussing mental health. True well-being will emerge only when seeking help becomes as natural as studying or working. Peer-led initiatives, open conversations, and empathetic campus spaces can empower students to move from silence to support. Reducing stigma, promoting emotional literacy, and treating mental health as integral to education are vital steps toward a culture of acceptance and care.

(Jais Merlin is an assistant professor in the Department of Media Studies, Christ [Deemed to be University]; Ankita and Aashana are students of the university)

OUR PAGES OF HISTORY

50 YEARS AGO: NOVEMBER 1975

4 top Mujib aides murdered

Calcutta, November 5
Four prominent leaders, including Mr. Tajuddin Ahmed and Mr. Syed Nazrul Islam, who steered Bangladesh to freedom through a gory struggle, were assassinated on Monday, less than three months after the brutal gunning down of Sheikh Mujibur Rehman, their leader. Radio Bangladesh, which announced the assassinations today—the third day of the turmoil in Dacca—did not give the names of the killers, but subsequent developments left little doubt that they were the very army officers who engineered the August 15 coup.

25 YEARS AGO: NOVEMBER 2000

Direct recruitment vacancies being filled by promotion

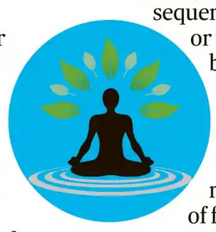
Bangalore, Nov 5
In a case of the State government violating its own order, the Government has resorted to filling the direct recruitment vacancies through departmental promotion in certain departments. The Government in August this year had withdrawn all direct recruitment vacancies notified for selection, pending the report of the Karnataka Administrative Reforms Commission (ARC), jeopardising the ongoing selection process by the KPSC and other agencies.

OASIS | JAMUNA RAO

Balance of hope and despair

The Covid19 pandemic caused unprecedented despair. It triggered disruptive attitudes of anxiety and depression, mental fog, and even suicides. Strangely, it also forced all these essentially mental health issues out into the mainstream. It reduced the stigma attached to accepting and talking about them. Thus, from despair came new hope.

Similarly, unbridled hope, instead of being positive, can end up as despair. In the epic Mahabharata, it is Yudhistira's hope of winning back what he has lost in the game of dice which makes him stake everything including his brothers and his wife. On the other hand, Arjuna's despondency on the battlefield brings forth the Bhagavad Gita. The discourse clears his confusion, detaches his mind from victory and defeat and enables him to focus on his duty.



Historically, the Emperor Asoka's despair after the gory battle of Kalinga turns him into a pacifist. This provides an impetus for the spread of Buddhism way beyond the boundaries of its home country.

The impetus to act comes from both hope and despair. Hope looks to the future, is willing to take risks and is, more often than not, assumed to be rewarding. It is visualised as positive. Despair is seen as a challenge to this mood. It is seen as coming from the defeat of goals, the failure of ventures, grief, and loss. However, its consequences are not always so bleak or undesirable. When hope blinds one to reality, it is perhaps despair which restores the balance. It lends itself to re-evaluation, reassessment and resetting of goals with no great expectations or loss of face. The obstinate refusal to accept failure leads to delusion. Despair keeps one grounded and in the present.

While hope is necessary for survival, despair is by no means lacking in the instinct to survive. In fact, activism on the issues of environment and the dangers of nuclear pollution are often a result of despair about the future. The successful campaign against the use of tobacco products has been driven by highlighting the dangers of its use.

No doubt, both hope and despair need reining in. Hope is pleasant and comes with the danger of being carried away. Despair comes with pain and needs a more philosophical approach. Marcus Aurelius, the Roman king, observed stoically, 'If you are distressed by anything external, the pain is not due to the thing itself, but to your estimate of it and this you have the power to revoke at any moment'.

POLL PANEL PUSHBACK: Asks why Congress did not file appeals during roll revision

'Unfounded': EC officials dismiss Rahul's allegations

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Election Commission officials on Tuesday sought to dismiss Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi's allegations of 'vote chori' in Haryana as "unfounded" and asked why the Congress did not flag flaws in the electoral rolls, claiming that no appeals were filed during the revision of voter lists.

Officials said 22 election petitions are currently pending in the Punjab and Haryana High Court while asserting that the Congress leader could share the evidence of Rai and Hodal seats, which he referred to in his press conference, in the court.

The reaction came as Rahul claimed that around 25 lakh entries in the voter list used for Haryana Assembly elections were fake and the polls were "stolen".

"What were the polling agents of Congress doing in polling stations? Why were no claims and objections raised by Congress Booth-Level Agents during the revision to avoid multiple names? What were the polling agents of Congress doing in the polling stations? They are supposed to object if the elector has already voted or if the polling agents doubt the identity of the elector," an official said.

'Zero appeals'

The official said that "zero appeals" were filed against the electoral rolls. Referring to Rai and Hodal seats, the official said, "Since election petitions have been filed in both the constituencies for the Haryana assembly elections, Rahul Gandhi may be advised to use all his evidence there."

The official also asked whether Rahul supports the Special Intensive Revision (SIR), which aims to remove duplicate, dead, and shifted voters, along with verification of citizenship. "Or is he opposing the SIR?" the official asked.

In the 2024 Assembly elections, the BJP had won 48 seats, while the Congress won 37 seats and the INLD two seats. Independent candidates bagged three seats in the 90-member Assembly.

In a post on X, the Chief Electoral Officer of Haryana said they had received 4.16 lakh claims and objections after the draft electoral rolls were published on August 2 last year, but after the final rolls were published on August 27 last year, no appeals or second appeals were filed with District Magistrates or the CEO. Complaints and objections received by the Returning Officer during the counting of votes were only five, the CEO added.

Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi during a press conference, in New Delhi, on Wednesday. PTI

MK STALIN
Tamil Nadu Chief Minister

"The next phase of such stealing is the conspiracy to snatch people's voting rights under the guise of #SIR, and Bihar and the #HaryanaFiles released today are proof! It is anguishing that the Election Commission, which is responsible for all such matters, despite numerous allegations and heaps of evidence, has not provided any proper explanation.

NAYAB SINGH SAINI
Haryana Chief Minister

"They (Congress) are misleading the country by speaking lies. People will not join you by spreading such falsehoods. You (Rahul Gandhi) are lying. Your four generations ruled the country. Even if after the rule by four generations, the Congress and Rahul Gandhi Baba speak lies, then it is unfortunate.

BJP counters H-bomb with 'anti-India' barb

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The BJP on Wednesday rebutted Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's allegations of vote theft in Haryana, calling them baseless and saying he was taking an "anti-India" stance.

The party also accused Gandhi of trying to discredit India's democratic institutions and undermine the Election Commission's credibility.

Union minister Kiren Rijiju told reporters that Gandhi's press conference itself was a "fraudulent act".

"Rahul Gandhi's statement is not only misleading but also an anti-India act. He is deliberately attempting to create mistrust among voters and weaken faith in the country's democratic process," he said.

The minister added that the Congress leader's repeated questioning of the electoral system reflected "frustration and political bankruptcy".

"India's electoral process is one of the most transparent and respected in the world. Every time the Congress faces defeat, it blames the system instead of introspecting," said Rijiju, urging the Congress leader to apologise for "trying to spread misinformation".

Gandhi, at his press conference earlier in the day, alleged that the BJP was "stealing votes" through institutional capture and manipulation of democratic systems, and that 25 lakh votes were misappropriated in Haryana.

Rijiju said during his presser, Gandhi was attempting to "instigate" Gen Z voters. "Such actions will not succeed in a country like India; India's youngsters are wise enough not to fall for such provocations," he said.

Kiren Rijiju

The Union minister for parliamentary affairs said the BJP wins elections because of the hard work of its workers and leaders, unlike the Congress.

"At the time of elections, he goes abroad. During a Parliament session, Rahul Gandhi silently goes to Cambodia and Thailand. When poll campaigns were underway in Bihar, he went to Colombia," he said.

In-party sabotage?

He also said that during the Haryana polls, Congress leader Kumari Selja had allegedly said her party would not be able to win because some state Congress leaders wanted it to lose.

"Three days ago, a former Congress leader quit the party and said the Congress lost the Haryana polls because its leaders were not working and were engaged in ensuring the party's defeat," alleged Rijiju.

He was referring to former Haryana minister Sampat Singh's resignation and allegation that senior Congress leaders sabotaged the party's candidates' chances in the 2024 Haryana Assembly elections.

(With PTI inputs)

Rahul sensed imminent defeat in Bihar polls: Nadda

BJP president J P Nadda on Wednesday flayed Rahul Gandhi over his vote-theft charge and said the Congress leader is making such "fabricated" claims because he has sensed imminent defeat of the Mahagathbandhan in the Bihar Assembly polls.

"Rahul Gandhi has already accepted that the Congress is going to lose. Elections are happening in Bihar and Rahul Gandhi is talking about Haryana (by) holding a press conference in Delhi because he has realised that Mahagathbandhan is set to lose in Bihar (polls)," Nadda said in a video message.

"On the one hand, Rahul Gandhi is alleging vote theft, (by) holding a press conference, and on the other, he is opposing the SIR. Rahul Gandhi himself does not know what he wants," he added.

Nadda alleged that whenever Gandhi goes abroad, he returns with some "mahagyan" from there and starts scripting fabricated stories to defame the country.

Soldier injured in gunfight in J&K's Kishtwar

SRINAGAR, DHNS: A soldier was injured on Wednesday in a gunfight between security forces and terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district, where a joint team of the Army and police launched a cordon-and-search operation following intelligence inputs about the presence of militants.

Officials said the encounter broke out in the forested Chhatru area of Kishtwar early in the morning after troops of the Army's White Knight Corps and personnel from the J&K Police came under heavy fire while closing in on a suspected hideout.

The injured soldier, a paratrooper from the Army's elite unit, was immediately airlifted to the Command Hospital in Udhampur, where he is undergoing treatment.

"The operation began in the early hours, and contact with the terrorists was established soon after security forces launched the search," an official said, adding that the exchange of fire was intense and intermittent firing continued in the area.

Wednesday's encounter is the latest in a series of gunfights and militant sightings in the hilly districts of the Jammu region, including Kishtwar, Doda, Ramban, Rajouri, Poonch, Kathua, Reasi and Udhampur. Once relatively calm, the region has witnessed a sharp rise in terrorist activities in recent years, with security agencies warning of attempts by Pakistan-based outfits to revive militancy in Jammu.

SC allows HCs to quash plaints under Domestic Violence Act

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court has said a complaint filed under the Domestic Violence Act can be quashed by the high court under its inherent jurisdiction at any stage of the proceedings and it is not essential for an order to be passed by a judicial magistrate.

A bench of Justices Rajesh Bindal and Manmohan set aside the Madhya Pradesh High Court's judgment of December 12, 2024, which dismissed a petition filed under Section 528 of the Bhartiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (Section 482 CrPC) for quashing of the proceedings under the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005, as not maintainable.

The HC agreed with a contention by the complainant that the plea for quashing was not maintainable since then only application under Section 12 of the DV Act of 2005 was filed and no order has been passed under any Section of the Act.

The complainant contended that as long as the proceedings continued, they are of civil nature and partake the character of criminal proceedings only upon passing of an order under the Act, 2005, which is then breached. Therefore, the petition was not maintainable.

"The view expressed by the high court holding the quashing to be not maintainable, cannot be legally sustained," the bench said in its order on October 28, allowing the plea.

The court remitted the matter to the high court for fresh consideration.

Global body flags Vantara animal import permits

NEW DELHI, DHNS

India has been asked to exercise "due diligence" while sanctioning import permits of animals for Reliance Foundation's Vantara animal rescue and rehabilitation centre, following concerns over "the origin of the specimens" and "the mode of acquisition", according to a new report by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES) — an international agreement with 185 countries as parties and a Secretariat to monitor how the treaty is being implemented.

Until the paperwork is thoroughly examined, CITES has advised the Union government not to allow further import permits and provide "evidence to the Secretariat" that its recommendations have been implemented. It also cautioned against the illegal harvest of wild animals that are later declared captive-bred.

The team was on a fact-finding mission to India in September after receiving complaints about how Vantara brought animals to India. Its report has now been released.

"Various imports raise questions, particularly with regard to the origin of the specimens concerned and/or the source and purpose codes used for the transactions... India should have exercised due diligence in cases of trade in species which are known not to breed well in captivity," the report says after examining Vantara's animal transaction records.

The team interacted with government officials and executives of Greens Zoological Rescue and Rehabilitation Centre, and Radha Krishna Temple Animal Welfare Trust, both at Jamnagar in Gujarat. Vantara is the legal entity that oversees the activity of both agencies.

It didn't find evidence of animals being imported without permits and certificates. "At this juncture, the Secretariat has not found evidence of any import for primarily commercial purposes or commercial use of the imported animals either," the report says.

However, several imports still raise questions regarding specimens' origins, the application of rules and procedures, the use of source and purpose-of-transaction codes, and the exercise of due diligence by India. CITES doesn't prohibit trade and transfer of animals from one country to another, but insists on strict conditions for them.

Some Vantara deals that came under scrutiny include the acquisition of jaguars, ocelots, African elephants, chimpanzees, gorillas, orangutans, cheetahs, snow leopards and bonobos.

PAUSE & CHECK

- Questions raised over specimen origins and acquisition methods
- CITES urges halt on new permits until paperwork is verified
- Fact-finding team visited India in September after complaints
- No evidence found of permit violations or commercial use of animals
- Jamnagar centres currently house around 48,000 animals

'Fearing' SIR, man dies by suicide in WB

Concern over disenfranchisement elevated his anxiety, says wife

KOLKATA, DHNS

After the suicide of another man in West Bengal, allegedly driven by fear of being disenfranchised, the Trinamool Congress claimed that anxiety over the ongoing Special Intensive Review (SIR) of the electoral rolls has led to at least nine such deaths to date.

The Election Commission distributed more than 84 lakh enumeration forms till 4 pm on Wednesday, the second day of the house-to-house survey.

The day after Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee led a (Trinamool Congress) TMC protest march in Kolkata, accusing the EC and the BJP of creating a fear psychosis with the SIR, Safikul Gazi, a middle-aged man, died by suicide at Bhangar in the South 24 Parganas district.

Gazi's wife told police that her husband met with an accident a few months ago, and the fear of being disenfranchised elevated his anxiety.

The TMC had alleged on Tuesday that eight people had died due to anxiety after the SIR of the electoral rolls had been announced.

"Such tragedies are the result of the BJP's conspiracy to intimidate and disenfranchise poor people," TMC MLA Shaukat Molla said.

BJP counters

"The SIR is a routine Election Commission process conducted across India to update voter lists. The TMC is using these deaths for political gain and to malign the BJP. Law and order is the state government's responsibility, not ours," BJP state president Samik Bhattacharya said.

A BLO on Wednesday visited Mamata's residence and delivered 17 enumeration forms to her and the members of her family.

(If you are in distress or having suicidal tendencies, please reach out to these 24/7 helplines: KIRAN 1800-599-0019 or Arogya Sahayavani at 104 for help)

BLOs forcing voters to return forms immediately: DMK

CHENNAI, DHNS: Tamil Nadu's ruling DMK on Wednesday alleged that booth level officers (BLOs) are forcing voters to complete enumeration forms and return them within a day. The party also expressed concerns that lakhs of people could be disenfranchised if the SIR of electoral rolls proceeds in a rushed manner.

Explaining the reasons behind the DMK's petition in the Supreme Court against the SIR, party's legal wing secretary and Rajya Sabha MP N R Elango said the Election Commission of India's (ECI) Form 6, distributed to voters, is difficult for many to understand. He stressed that voters require sufficient time to comprehend and correctly fill in the details.

"The form is difficult to complete. In many areas, BLOs have not distributed the forms. Where they have, we have reports of voters being compelled to submit the filled form the very next day. BLOs are reportedly not following the instructions issued by the ECI," Elango alleged.

Meanwhile, AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami convened a meeting of district secretaries and asked them to ensure that the fresh voters' list doesn't have any discrepancies. He instructed the functionaries to closely monitor the SIR exercise and send reports to the party headquarters.

Kerala to move court

An all-party meeting convened by Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan has decided to pursue legal action against the SIR, reports DHNS from Thiruvananthapuram.

Barring the BJP, all major parties, including the Congress, backed the CPM-led Left Democratic Front government's move.

Former BJP minister joins Assam Jatiya Parishad

GUWAHATI, DHNS: Weeks after quitting the BJP, veteran leader and former Union Minister Rajen Gohain on Wednesday joined the Asom Jatiya Parishad (AJP).

Gohain (74), who carried the baton of Hindutva politics in Assam during the Vajpayee-Advani era, quit the party last month, citing neglect by the present leadership under Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and his associates.

"I have served in the BJP for more than 40 years. All these years, I have seen that the national parties rule Assam from Delhi. Because of that attitude and Hitler's rule, the people of Assam have suffered, and the problems have remained unresolved. So I decided to join a regional party that is inclusive," Gohain said.

Gogain won the Lok Sabha elections from the Nagaon constituency four times, between 1999 and 2019. He also served as the Union Minister of State for Railways in Narendra Modi's first tenure.

A monorail train tilted during a test run at Wadala depot in Mumbai on Wednesday. Three staffers, including the train captain, were injured in the incident. PTI

Before Mamdani's leap, mom Mira Nair lit the way

AMRITA MADHUKALYA
NEW DELHI, DHNS

As Zohran Mamdani was elected mayor of New York on Wednesday, rising to touch the lives of thousands, his mother — filmmaker Mira Nair — had long initiated an effort that has impacted thousands in Delhi.

Years before Mamdani was born, Nair founded an NGO to support street children, funded by the proceeds of her acclaimed film 'Salaam Bombay!'. The organisation has since reached over 50,000 children.

Released in 1988, 'Salaam Bombay!' was based on the lives of ragpickers in Mumbai's Grant Road. Nair and writer Sooni Taraporewala spent over four months with the children before writing the screenplay. The film received widespread critical acclaim, won the Caméra d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival and was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film. Nair chose to invest its earnings in an NGO dedicated to improving the lives of street children.

Democratic candidate for New York City mayor Zohran Mamdani with his mother Mira Nair. REUTERS

At a programme in 2020, Mira Nair reflected on the origins of the NGO she founded. "The whole idea was to work with an organisation that would honour street kids for who they are and give them back a childhood, while also recognising their desire for a world that respected their lives. But we couldn't find such an organisation, so we created our own in Salaam Balak Trust," Nair said.

Her mother Praveen Nair served as the trust's first chairperson. Today, the NGO runs several residential homes for children and teenagers, day care centres, and toll-free helplines for children in distress. It also trains children in theatre, dance, puppetry, etc.

Beyond filmmaking, Nair has long been an activist. In 2005, she established the Maisha Film Lab in Kampala, Uganda, a training initiative for filmmakers.

Mamdani's campaign, which leaned heavily on Instagram and TikTok reels, featured several Bollywood references — including his victory speech, which ended with the song Dhoom Machale from the 2004 film 'Dhoom'.

FAROOQ ABDULLAH
National Conference chief

"Zohran Mamdani's stunning victory is not merely a personal milestone but a clarion call for collective progress. His election sends a message of unity and compassion. Its a reminder that when we reject hate and embrace humanity, we build bridges that endure.

ROAD SAFETY

Retraining, psych tests for repeat traffic offenders soon

AJITH ATHRADY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

To curb road accidents and traffic violations, the Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has directed states to conduct refresher training and psychological tests for repeat traffic-offenders.

For stricter enforcement of traffic rules, the ministry has issued a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for electronic monitoring and enforcement of road safety following a Supreme Court direction. The SOP also suggested higher fines for repeat offenders.

"Repeat offenders shall be liable to increased fines and penalties as specified under the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988. Further, provision shall be made for the mandatory refresher training of such offenders upon crossing a threshold number of violations within a prescribed time period, as a corrective measure aimed at promoting safer driving behaviour. Offenders exhibiting reckless or dangerous driving behaviour may be referred for psychological assessment and counselling to address underlying behavioural issues," said the SOP.

It added that traffic enforcement personnel would be empowered to confiscate offenders' driving licences and forward them to the licensing authority for possible disqualification. However, the ministry insisted that states establish transparent procedures for document seizure.

More measures

To strengthen accountability and data-driven enforcement, the ministry said: "A mechanism is being developed to capture driver and vehicle behaviour and link it with the insurance premium, issuance and renewal of driving licences, and suspension or cancellation of registration of motor vehicles. Examination is also being done to evaluate the feasibility of graded penalties based on the number of offences or challans."

The SOP also suggested that states set up a wing within the Transport Department to address the growing need for coordinated and structured road-safety efforts.

"This wing will be responsible for developing and implementing road-safety policies, programmes, and public awareness campaigns aimed at reducing traffic accidents, fatalities, and injuries," said the SOP.

Kerala sees 4 deaths from 'brain-eating amoeba' infection in 5 days

Health department continues to blame contaminated waterbodies, environment

ARJUN RAGHUNATH
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS

Four persons with amoebic meningoencephalitis — a rare infection caused by a micro-organism that is also known as the "brain-eating amoeba" — have died in the last five days in Kerala.

Alarmingly, most victims of the infection in recent times did not have any known contact with contaminated water, which is considered to be the source of the amoeba, and many were elderly persons. However, Health Department sources continued to blame contaminated waterbodies and the environment.

The latest victim is Vijayan (57), hailing from Koduman in the suburbs of Thiruvananthapuram. He suffered a leg fracture recently. During treatment, he tested positive for amoebic meningoencephalitis and was admitted to the Thiruvananthapuram Medical College Hospital.

Around 160 people have tested positive for the infection so far this year, of whom 37 died, putting the fatality rate at 23%. The Health Department continues to heave a sigh of relief at the death rate being so low. Amoebic meningoencephalitis is considered a near-fatal infection with a death rate of over 95%.

A Health Department official told *DH* that despite repeated advisories, water bodies — including those on which people widely depended for daily use — were contaminated by the public's unscientific garbage disposal.

"Over the last few years, Kerala has been seeing an rise in infectious diseases. Environmental contamination is the primary reason for this. The Health Department has been giving necessary alerts over these," said the official who did not want to be named.

"It was up to the departments concerned to take effective actions to keep water bodies and the environment clean by taking stringent action against unscientific waste disposal. The Health Department is effectively treating the patients and trying to keep the death rate as low as possible," he added.

DEADLY DISEASE

- Most victims in recent times did not have any known contact with contaminated water, considered source of amoeba
- Waterbodies contaminated by the public's unscientific garbage disposal, says health dept

Protests in TN after camera found in Tata hostel bathroom

CHENNAI, DHNS: Hundreds of women workers at Tata Electronics Private Limited (TEPL), a key supplier to Apple Inc, held a massive protest on Tuesday night after a camera was found in a bathroom at a company-managed hostel near Hosur in Tamil Nadu.

Tension prevailed at the Vidiyal Residency workers' hostel in Kelamangalam village as the women employees demanded strict action against a colleague who allegedly placed the camera there.

TEPL owns a large facility in Nagamangalam, where it assembles high-end iPhones and enclosures for Apple, besides manufacturing several smartphone components.

Krishnagiri Superintendent of Police P Thangadurai told *DH* that a woman employee of TEPL found a camera inside a bathroom on Sunday morning and informed her hostelmates. An internal inquiry pointed to Neelu Kumari (22) from Odisha allegedly placing the camera there, but no action was initially taken against her.

Enraged by this, the women employees staged a protested, prompting police and district administration officials to hold talks with them.

Thangadurai said the police arrested Kumari on Tuesday night. "She confessed to placing the camera under pressure from a male friend who works in Bengaluru. No footage was sent to the male friend," said the SP. TEPL did not comment on the incident.

Probe blames crew for Chhattisgarh train crash

AJITH ATHRADY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The train accident in Chhattisgarh on Tuesday occurred after the crew of a passenger train that collided with a stationary freight train failed to control it at a red signal, according to a preliminary probe.

The probe conducted by railway experts found that the crew of the passenger train was responsible for not controlling the train at the right time and position before the danger signal, thereby committing an SPAD (Signal Passed at Danger) violation—an instance of overshooting a red signal.

The local MEMU (mainline electric multiple unit) passenger train rammed into a stationary goods train near Bilaspur in Chhattisgarh on Tuesday, killing 11 people, including the loco pilot, and injuring 20 others.

The affected line was restored on Wednesday morning, officials said.

According to the findings, the MEMU train, consisting of eight coaches — six passenger coaches and two motor coaches on either end — departed at 3:48 pm from platform number 2 of the Gevra station towards Bilaspur on the 'UP' line.

It overshot a red signal and collided with the rear brake van of a 59-wagon goods train that was standing at the next red signal at 3:50 pm, the report stated.

The impact was so severe that the brake van of the goods train capsized completely, and half of the motor coach (locomotive) of the passenger train climbed onto the wagon next to the brake van.

The loco pilot and assistant loco pilot were found injured. While the loco pilot later succumbed to injuries, the assistant loco pilot was immediately taken to the nearest hospital along with other injured passengers, the report said.

A breath analysis test could not be conducted on the assistant loco pilot as she was hospitalised, the official added.

The Commissioner of Railway Safety will conduct a probe and submit a report to the Railways, the official said.

6 women run over by train while crossing tracks in Uttar Pradesh's Mirzapur

SANJAY PANDEY
LUCKNOW, DHNS

Six women devotees were run over by a speeding train at the Chunar railway station in Uttar Pradesh's Mirzapur district on Wednesday morning.

According to the police sources here, the women, who were on their way to take a bath in the Ganga on the occasion of Kartik Poornima, were run over by the Howrah-Kalka Netaji Express when they were trying to cross the tracks.

All the devotees had got off at Chuna railway station from another train and were trying to cross the tracks, despite there being a foot overbridge at the station to cross from one platform to another.

The police had a tough time collecting the remains of the deceased as their body parts were scattered several metres from the tracks, sources said.

They added that the deceased included three members of a family, and hailed from the Rajgarh area of the district.

Senior railway and police officials reached the spot and sent the bodies for post-mortem examination. The movement of trains on the section was briefly affected after the incident.

Meanwhile, an eyewitness at the station told the district magistrate that the incident occurred due to negligence on the part of the railway department.

The eyewitness, flanked by several locals, also claimed that such incidents have happened earlier on this route because passengers often find it difficult to use the foot overbridge, which has reportedly been shifted to another location at the station.

(With PTI inputs)

MISCELLANY

◆ COMICS ◆

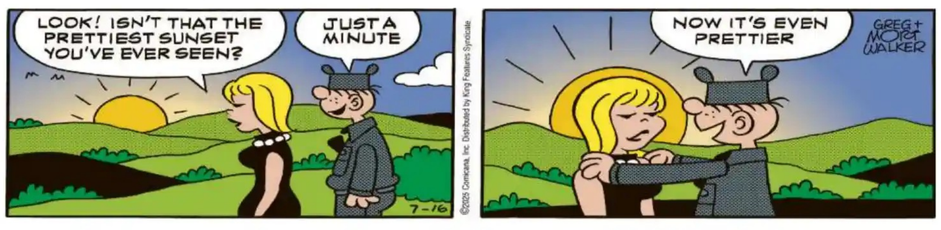
Blondie

BOY, THIS NEW EXTRA-STRENGTH TOOTHPASTE BLONDIE GOT ME REALLY WORKS!
AND SHE'S RIGHT, IT REALLY KNOCKS OUT GARLIC BREATH!
MAYBE SHE'S TRYING TO TELL ME SOMETHING
7-29

Hagar The Horrible

WHAT A WASTE OF TIME! NOTHING ABOUT THAT SO-CALLED VIKING PLAY WAS ANYTHING CLOSE TO REAL!
I DISAGREE!
VIKING WARS
1-18
THAT VIKING KING WAS REAL HANDSOME!

Beetle Bailey

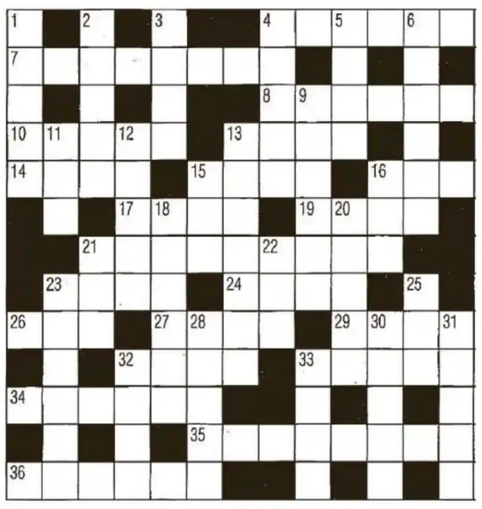


Peanuts

DON'T ASK ME WHERE I'M GOING! I'M GOING TO CAMP, THAT'S WHERE I'M GOING!
SO DON'T ASK ME!
WHY AM I GOING? DON'T ASK ME! BECAUSE I HAVE TO, THAT'S WHY!
SO DON'T ASK ME!!
HAVE A NICE TIME

Marvin

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 12282



CRYPTIC

ACROSS
4 Broadcasting music out of love? (6)
7 Warning that comes with a new coat (3,5)
8 Does he start batting cannily? (6)
10 One's own little drug-store (5)
13 Low, initially depressed state of mind (4)
14 He's on record as providing service (4)
15 Paper boy? (4)
16 Be good at getting something for nothing? (3)
17 Where to egg the Surrey team on (4)
19 Praise a youth about to start up (4)
21 Unending advice not to jump about so much (9)
23 Occupied with being generous? (4)
24 Rave about a red-headed six-footer? (4)
26 Father figure nowadays (3)
27 Work group given some reward by the company head (4)
29 There are black pupils in them (4)
32 Provided money for one to be in a home (4)
33 Having a bit of grub to eat is fine (5)
34 They may intercede between friends and countrymen (6)
35 A bounder in court? (8)
36 A knotty old dear (6)

DOWN
1 It's smart to suggest the southwest is the centre of fashion (5)
2 Plagiarise tales? (5)
3 The money Charlie has changed (4)
4 Supporter not actually backing you up (5)
5 We edit it out as something unwanted (4)
6 Wanted partly to atone for a bad deed (6)
9 Organic flower fertiliser (6)
11 Dried leaves (3)
12 It rotates, forming loops (5)
13 She's no serious revolutionary (7)
15 Exclude the big-headed one (3)
16 Subscription raised for a people carrier (3)
18 Figure to turn left and see an imagined planet (6)
20 Are staggering around the street making a bloomer (5)
21 Come out in the garden, friend! (3)
22 Walk most of the way back, as a rule (3)
23 Prefer a boundary around a civic centre (6)
25 Grassy part of an arable area (3)
28 To start riding something very high is dodgy (5)
30 Listeners, having started young, have plenty of time (5)
31 Put up with being a strap-hanger (5)
32 Leave with uncle (4)
33 Have such dancers twice the energy? (2-2)

EASY

ACROSS
4 Shellfish (6)
7 Food of the gods (8)
8 Afternoon nap (6)
10 Illegal burning (5)
13 Locate (4)
14 Prophet (4)
15 Osculate (4)
16 Pig-pen (3)
17 Acquire (4)
19 Not false (4)
21 Plant (9)
23 Metallic element (4)
24 Thin mud (4)
26 Beer barrel (3)
27 Multitude (4)
29 Spoken (4)
32 Traffic marker (4)
33 Box (5)
34 Changes (6)
35 Stretch (8)
36 Road (6)

DOWN
1 Spanish snacks (5)
2 Maltreat (5)
3 Shortly (4)
4 Fertile spot (5)
5 Plant ovule (4)
6 Landed property (6)
9 Implant (6)
11 Agent (3)
12 Keyboard instrument (5)
13 Elegant skill (7)
15 Young goat (3)
16 Star (3)
18 Moor (6)
20 Helicopter blade (5)
21 Use a spade (3)
22 Illuminated (3)
23 Fanatic (6)
25 Feline (3)
28 Beginning (5)
30 Detection system (5)
31 Prise (5)
32 Yield (4)
33 Hypocritical speech (4)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 12281

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 1, Minder 7, A-C.C.-I-dent 8, Ma-ps 10, Show up 11, Fu-tile 14, Net 16, Re-NEW 17, Spar 19, To-Ken 21, Fives 22, Wo-me-n 23, Herb 26, M-iser 28, Co.-X 29, I-sob-el 30, CO-ward 31, A-dam 32, Hard a-t it 33, Old hat.
DOWN: 1, Miss-us 2, Drawer (rev.) 3, Ra's-p 4, Figures 5, Begin 6, Str-EW 8, M-O-na 9, Put 12, Ten 13, L-ever 15, Do-ver 18, Pa-R-is 19, Ti-M 20, Ken(-wood) 21, Foreman 22, We-B 23, How-A-Rd. 24, ExAM 25, Budge-t 26, Might 27, Sorry 28, C-od 30, Cat-O.

EASY
ACROSS: 1, Bedsit 7, Apiarist 8, Bawl 10, Gaelic 11, Sahara 14, Ton 16, Denim 17, Edam 19, Senor 21, Tapir 22, Royal 23, Beef 26, Straw 28, Sad 29, Nougat 30, Border 31, Ruby 32, Antidote 33, Warder.
DOWN: 1, Brogue 2, Slalom 3, Talc 4, Matador 5, Divan 6, Steam 8, Beta 9, Win 12, Her 13, Rinse 15, Repay 18, Ditto 19, Say 20, Nil 21, Towards 22, Rag 23, Barber 24, Eddy 25, Former 26, Sneak 27, Rusts 28, Sou 30, Brew.

◆SU-DO-KU-6744◆

8								
			7		5		9	8
9					8	5		
4	8	6			1			
1		9				4		5
			9			3	8	1
		2	1					9
6	4		2		9			
								4

hard

3	4	7	5	2	6	1	9	8
8	9	2	7	1	3	4	5	6
6	5	1	9	4	8	2	7	3
7	3	9	1	6	5	8	2	4
2	8	6	4	3	9	5	1	7
4	1	5	2	8	7	6	3	9
9	7	4	6	5	2	3	8	1
5	6	3	8	7	1	9	4	2
1	2	8	3	9	4	7	6	5

SOLUTION TO 6743

To solve the puzzle: To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

SCRABBLE™

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							RACK 1
A1	E1	B3	T1	L1	T1	S1	
							RACK 2
T1	T1	A1	A1	H4	C3	H4	2nd Letter Triple
							RACK 3
I1	G2	P3	N1	N1	N1	E1	
							RACK 4
U1	O1	L1	T1	T1	K5	A1	Triple Word Score

PAR SCORE 145-155
by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Collins English Dictionary. JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

S1	M3	O1	O1	C3	H4		RACK 1 =	26
S1	H4	A1	R1	D2	S1		RACK 2 =	14
K5	V4	E1	T1	C3	H4		RACK 3 =	18
D2	I1	N1	G2	I1	E1	R1	RACK 4 =	77
V4	A1	R1	I1	O1	U1	S1	RACK 5 =	60

PAR SCORE 125-135 JUDD'S TOTAL 195

HITORI-3198

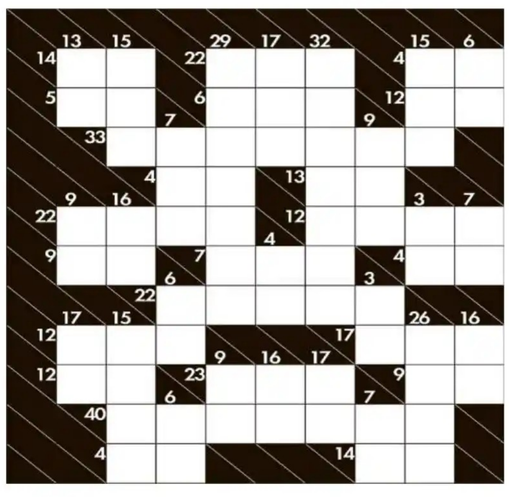
6	1	4	2	7	4	3	8
5	4	4	7	3	6	8	8
7	4	2	3	1	3	3	5
1	4	7	4	5	8	6	2
8	3	4	5	6	7	4	3
2	5	6	3	4	4	4	7
4	8	4	6	2	4	7	1
2	6	8	1	4	2	1	4

SOLUTION TO 3197

■	1	6	■	2	4	5	■
5	■	4	3	7	■	1	6
7	2	3	8	■	1	■	5
6	■	5	7	4	8	2	■
■	7	2	■	5	6	■	1
2	4	1	6	■	5	3	7
4	3	8	■	1	7	■	2
■	5	7	4	■	3	8	■

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

KAKURO- 3198



SOLUTION TO 3197

To solve the puzzle: Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

SU DO KU X - 3727

■								5
	■						■	
	5	■	2			■		
4	2		■		■	8		
3				■	9		7	4
9			6		7	3		
	1	8			5	■		
	■						■	
■		2			4			3

SOLUTION TO 3726

7	3	9	6	8	1	2	5	4
6	5	4	7	9	2	3	1	8
2	1	8	5	3	4	9	7	6
5	2	3	4	7	8	6	9	1
1	8	7	9	6	5	4	3	2
4	9	6	2	1	3	7	8	5
8	6	5	3	2	9	1	4	7
9	7	1	8	4	6	5	2	3
3	4	2	1	5	7	8	6	9

To solve the puzzle: The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

JUMBLE®

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

NUSTT

TOBHO

NMWOIN

SHALPS

Really? You stop it right in the middle of a shot?
Someone wants attention.
4/28
THE CAT WALKED ACROSS THE REMOTE CONTROL AND ACCIDENTALLY PRESSED THE ---

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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Ans. here: " " (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: CARRY GLADE DEFEAT IMPAIR
Answer: When the workers moved the giant rocks to build Stonehenge, it must have been — A REAL DRAG

I think, if you read the pollsters, the shutdown was a big factor, and they say that I wasn't on the ballot and was the biggest factor... I don't think it's good.
Donald Trump, US President

They won on promises that we know cannot be met... Well, we made that point, and they heard us. Tonight is his night. He deserved it.
Andrew Cuomo, Ex-governor of New York

CONTROVERSIES THAT BROUGHT MAMDANI INTO THE SPOTLIGHT

1 Mamdani drew sharp attention after calling Prime Minister Narendra Modi a "war criminal", terming the Gujarat riots a "mass slaughter of Muslims".

2 A video of Mamdani eating rice and dal with his hands went viral after a US Congressman mocked, saying that "civilised people in America don't eat like this."

3 Mamdani publicly defended the slogan "From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free." Critics called the phrase antisemitic.

Mamdani's victory deepens US political divide

Quick Facts

Age: 34
The first Indian-origin Muslim mayor of New York City is a Democratic Party member with socialist views who advocates for workers over corporations.

CHILDHOOD & YOUTH
- Born in Uganda
- Studied at Bronx High School of Science
- Graduated in Africana Studies
- Co-founded Students for Justice in Palestine
- Became US citizen in 2018

FAMILY
Mother: **Mira Nair**, film director
Father: **Mahmood Mamdani**, professor at Columbia University
Wife: **Rama Duwaji**, artist

POLITICAL AGENDA
- Free bus service
- Rent freeze and action on landlords
- City-owned grocery chain for affordable food
- Universal childcare
- 2% flat tax on income above $1 million

BEFORE POLITICS
- Worked as a housing counsellor in Queens
- Helped low-income families fight eviction
- Was also a rapper – performed as Mr Cardamom

FAITH
- Open about his Muslim faith
- Regularly visits mosques

CAMPAIGN MESSAGE
- Focused on affordability and housing
- Rose from unknown to popular using social media
- Strongly pro-Palestinian and critical of Israel. Accused Israel of genocide in Gaza.

NEW YORK, PTI

Zohran Mamdani's stunning victory has further deepened the divide between American media and politics. While one section sees it as a mandate against President Donald Trump and the rise of Democratic Socialists, another compares it with the ascent of Marxism.

Mamdani defeated Trump-backed independent candidate Andrew Cuomo and Republican Curtis Sliwa in the closely watched race for New York City Mayor. Apart from Mamdani, his party colleague Mikie Sherrill was elected Governor of New Jersey, Abigail Spanberger became Virginia's Governor, and India-born Ghazala Hashmi was elected as her deputy.

"It's a reminder that when we come together around strong, forward-looking leaders who care about the issues that matter, we can win. We've still got plenty of work to do, but the future looks a little bit brighter," said Barack Obama, the first Black President of the US. However, Mamdani's victory has also highlighted divisions within the Democratic Party. While some view him as the party's future, others see his win as signalling the rise of Democratic Socialists within its ranks, analysts said.

"Mamdani and Cuomo represented two very different wings of a Democratic party whose popularity is waning nationally; one deeply unpopular and infuriatingly uninspiring, the other genuinely ambitious and exciting. New Yorkers have signalled whose vision for America they support," The Guardian wrote before the election.

"Mamdani belongs to the Democratic Socialists of America (DSA), which was founded in 1982 through the merger of several progressive movements and has now become the largest socialist organisation in the US," C Raja Mohan, an international affairs expert, wrote in The Indian Express on Wednesday.

"Mamdani shines a light on the current churn in US domestic politics and the unfolding contest for the political soul of America," Raja Mohan added.

Meanwhile, the US media has launched a parallel debate following Mamdani's victory. A section of the press hailed the outcome as the beginning of a new chapter. Major outlets such as The Washington Post, The New York Times and The Wall Street Journal celebrated Mamdani's triumph as the success of a democratic socialist.

The Washington Post asked, "How did a socialist with almost no governing experience become New York's mayoral frontrunner?"

Conversely, conservative outlets like Fox News and The New York Post described his victory as a "socialist experiment" and the "rise of Marxism."

"'Mamdani's socialist experiment comes to City Hall,'" read a Fox Business headline, while The New York Post depicted him holding the communist hammer and sickle in a cartoon, calling it the "rise of Marxism."

Trump blames shutdown for defeats

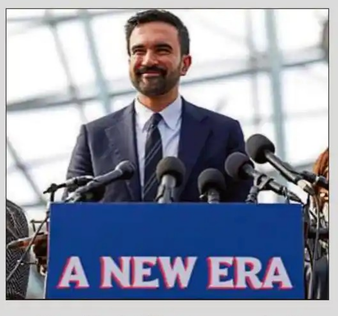
WASHINGTON, PTI: US President Donald Trump on Wednesday said the Republican Party lost Tuesday's elections due to his absence from the ballot and the ongoing government shutdown.

"'Trump wasn't on the ballot, and the shutdown were the two reasons that Republicans lost elections tonight,' according to pollsters," the US President posted on Truth Social. The government shutdown has now entered its 36th day, breaking the previous record. "Republicans, terminate the filibuster! Get back to passing legislation and voter reform! President DJT," he wrote in another post.

Quotes Nehru in speech

NEW YORK, PTI: Zohran Mamdani invoked India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru's historic 'Tryst with Destiny' speech in his victory address, portraying himself as the leader of a "new age" standing against political dynasties, oligarchies, and authoritarianism.

"A moment comes, but rarely in history, when we step out from the old to the new, when an age ends, and when the soul of a nation, long suppressed, finds utterance. Tonight, we have stepped out from the old into the new," Mamdani said, echoing Nehru's words delivered on the eve of India's independence.



New York City mayor-elect Zohran Mamdani holds a press conference in the Queens borough of New York City on Wednesday. REUTERS

Indian-origin Ghazala wins Virginia Lt Guv race

NEW YORK, PTI: India-born American politician Ghazala Hashmi was elected as Virginia's Lieutenant Governor, becoming the first Muslim and South Asian American to hold the top political post in the state.

Ghazala Hashmi speaks to supporters in Richmond on Tuesday. AP/PTI

Hashmi, 61, a Democrat, secured 1,465,634 votes (54.2 per cent), far ahead of her Republican rival John Reid, who received 1,232,242 votes, with 79% of ballots counted. The Virginia State Senator, who emerged victorious on Election Day on Tuesday, was among over 30 Indian-American and South Asian candidates contesting for key positions nationwide in the 2025 elections.

Hashmi's contest was one of the most closely watched as she was in the fray for a top state position. She is also the first Muslim and the first South Asian American to serve in the Virginia Senate. "As an experienced educator and advocate for inclusive values and social justice, her legislative priorities include public education, voting rights, the preservation of democracy, reproductive freedom, gun violence prevention, environmental protection, housing, and access to affordable healthcare," her official profile stated.

Meanwhile, Indian-origin mayor of Cincinnati, Ohio, Aftab Pureval, won a second term defeating Republican challenger Cory Bowman, half-brother of Vice President JD Vance, local media reported.

Typhoon Kalmaegi claims 85 lives in Philippines

Cebu province suffers worst devastation as floods submerge homes

MANILA, AP/PTI

Residents carrying their belongings and pet dogs wade through a flooded street in Liloan, Philippines, on Tuesday. AFP

Typhoon Kalmaegi has left at least 85 people dead with 75 others missing in the central Philippines, many in widespread flooding that trapped people on their roofs and swept away cars in a hard-hit province still recovering from a deadly earthquake, officials said on Wednesday.

Among the dead were six people who were killed when a Philippine air force helicopter crashed in the southern province of Agusan del Sur on Tuesday. The crew was on its way to provide humanitarian help to provinces battered by Kalmaegi, the military said. It did not give the cause of the crash.

Kalmaegi blew away from western Palawan province into the South China Sea before noon Wednesday with sustained winds of up to 130 kph and gusts of up to 180 kph, according to forecasters.

Bernardo Rafaelito Alejandro IV, deputy administrator of the Office of Civil Defence, and provincial officials said many of the deaths were reported in the central province of Cebu, which was pummeled by Kalmaegi on Tuesday, setting off flash floods and causing a river and other waterways to swell.

The resulting flooding engulfed residential communities, forcing startled residents to climb on their roofs, where they desperately pleaded to be rescued as the floodwaters rose, officials said.

The Philippine Red Cross received many calls from people needing rescue in Cebu from their roofs, its secretary-general Gwendolyn Pang said.

At least 49 people drowned in floods, and others died as a result of landslides and falling debris in Cebu, where 13 people were reported missing, the Office of Civil Defence said. It added that 62 others were missing in the provinces of Negros Occidental and Negros Oriental, which are located near Cebu.

"We did everything we could for the typhoon, but, you know, there are really some unexpected things like flash floods," Cebu Gov Pamela Baricuatro said over the telephone.

Trump's tariff powers face SC scrutiny

WASHINGTON, AFP

US Supreme Court justices questioned the legality of a wide swathe of Donald Trump's tariffs Wednesday, as they began hearing a landmark case that could uphold—or upend—the president's economic agenda.

Billions of dollars in customs revenue and a key tool in Trump's trade wars are at stake, while the conservative-dominated court once again grapples with the Republican's efforts to expand presidential power.

The nine justices are considering Trump's invocation of emergency powers to impose "reciprocal" tariffs on nearly every US trade partner, as well as levies targeting Mexico, Canada and China over their alleged roles in illicit drug flows.

Opponents argue that such sweeping tariffs are not authorised under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, the law Trump cited when imposing the levies.

A key question before the court is whether the "major questions doctrine" applies. Under the doctrine, Congress must clearly authorise policies with significant economic or political consequences.

Solicitor General John Sauer, arguing on behalf of the Trump administration, fielded questions from several justices and maintained that the doctrine does not apply, given the president's inherently broad powers.

He added that Congress was expected to confer major authority on the president to address international crises. Sauer also argued that the issue was not one of taxation but of regulating foreign commerce. The power to impose tariffs, he said, was a "core application" of such authority.

The court's ruling—which could take months—does not concern sector-specific tariffs Trump separately imposed, including on steel, aluminium and automobiles.

A lower court ruled in May that he had exceeded his authority, prompting this Supreme Court challenge. He described the case as "one of the most important" in US history and warned of disaster if his tariffs are overturned.

Germany cracks down on Muslim groups viewed as security threats

BERLIN, AP/PTI: The German government on Wednesday banned a Muslim group it accused of violating basic human rights and the country's democratic values and conducted raids against two other Muslim groups across the country.

The Interior Ministry said the organisation, which it banned, Muslim Interaktiv, represented a threat to the constitutional order by promoting antisemitism and discrimination against women and sexual minorities.

The government argued the group was a particular threat because it promoted Islam as the sole model for the social order and maintained that Islamic law should take precedence over German law, including in areas such as the treatment of women.

"We will respond with the full force of the law to anyone who aggressively calls for a caliphate on our streets, incites hatred against the state of Israel and Jews in an intolerable manner, and despises the rights of women and minorities," German Interior Minister Alexander Dobrindt said.

WORLD AT A GLANCE

A French gendarme inspects the burnt car used by a driver who rammed into pedestrians and cyclists near Saint-Pierre-d'Oleron, off the Atlantic coast, in France on Wednesday. REUTERS

Japanese govt deploys troops to counter surge in bear attacks

▸ Japan deployed troops Wednesday to the northern prefecture of Akita to help contain a surge of bear attacks that have terrorised residents in the mountainous region, AP/PTI reports from Tokyo.

Reports of unexpected encounters with bears are now being reported almost daily ahead of hibernation season as the bears forage for food. The animals have been seen roaming near schools, train stations, supermarkets and even at a hot springs resort. Some of the encounters have resulted in injuries and even human deaths. The growing bear population's encroachment into residential areas is happening in a region with a rapidly ageing and declining human population. Since April, more than 100 people have been injured and at least 12 killed in bear attacks across Japan, according to Environment Ministry statistics.

AI flies out stranded passengers

▸ Air India ferried 228 passengers and 17 crew members who were stranded in the Mongolian capital Ulaanbaatar to Delhi on Wednesday morning, PTI reports from New Delhi.

The passengers were stranded in the Mongolian capital after their San Francisco-Delhi flight was diverted to the Mongolian capital on Monday due to a technical issue. An official said Air India's relief flight carrying the passengers from Ulaanbaatar landed in the national capital at around 8:24 am on Wednesday.

Death toll in UPS plane crash rises to 9

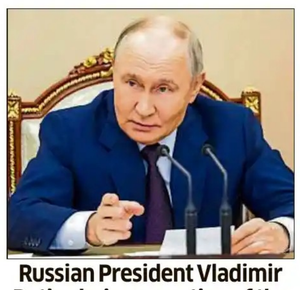
REUTERS: The death toll from the crash of a UPS cargo plane that erupted into a fireball moments after takeoff in Louisville, Kentucky on Tuesday has risen to nine, officials said on Wednesday.

Investigators from the National Transportation Safety Board will be on site Wednesday to begin the process of finding out what went wrong when the 34-year-old MD-11 cargo plane caught fire around 5:13 p.m. ET Tuesday and then crashed.

Louisville Mayor Craig Greenberg said nine dead people had been found at the scene of the crash. Kentucky Governor Andy Beshear said it was possible there would be more fatalities.

Putin orders proposals on resumption of nuclear test

MOSCOW, AP/PTI



Russian President Vladimir Putin chairs a meeting of the Security Council in Moscow on Wednesday. REUTERS

Russian President Vladimir Putin on Wednesday ordered officials to submit proposals for a possible resumption of nuclear tests in response to President Donald Trump's recent remarks suggesting that the US may restart its own atomic tests.

Speaking at a meeting with his Security Council, Putin reaffirmed his earlier statement that Moscow would only resume nuclear tests if the US did so first. However, he directed the defence and foreign ministries, along with other government agencies, to analyse Washington's intentions and prepare proposals for resuming nuclear weapons tests.

On 30 October, Trump appeared to indicate that the US would resume testing nuclear weapons for the first time in three decades, saying it would be on an "equal basis" with Russia and China. However, US Energy Secretary Chris Wright said on Sunday that the new tests of the US nuclear weapons system ordered by Trump would not involve nuclear explosions.

Trump made the announcement on social media while in South Korea, days after Putin reported successful tests of a prospective nuclear-powered and nuclear-capable cruise missile and underwater drone.

The US military has also conducted regular tests of nuclear-capable weapons, but it has not detonated them since 1992. The Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, which the US signed but did not ratify, has nonetheless been observed since its adoption by all countries possessing nuclear weapons—North Korea being the only exception.

IAEA warns Iran to step up cooperation

REUTERS: Iran must "seriously improve" its cooperation with United Nations inspectors to avoid escalating tensions with the West, the Financial Times reported on Wednesday, citing International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) chief Rafael Grossi.

Grossi told the FT that although the IAEA had conducted around a dozen inspections in Iran since the outbreak of hostilities with Israel in June, it had not been granted access to key nuclear facilities, including Fordow, Natanz, and Isfahan, which were bombed by the US.

Grossi said in October that movement had been detected near Iran's enriched uranium stockpile but stressed that it did "not imply that there is activity on enrichment." Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmaeil Baghaei later said that Grossi was "fully aware of the peaceful nature" of Iran's nuclear programme and should refrain from expressing "unfounded opinions" about it.

Iranian officials have accused the IAEA of providing justification for Israel's bombing, which began the day after the agency's board voted to declare Iran in violation of its obligations under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Grossi told the FT that while the agency sought to approach its "bumpy" relationship with Tehran with understanding, Iran still had to comply with international requirements.

Women look at the artificial giant head of a woman with flowers and grass at the 8th China International Import Expo in Shanghai on Wednesday. REUTERS

India needs integrated national policy on gold: SBI Research

Gold demand in India rose to 802.8 tonnes in 2024

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Gold has significant importance in Indian society, playing a unique role in social and financial life finding usage as jewellery for occasions and inheritance as well as physical gold as a household store of value. The total consumer demand of gold in India rose to 802.8 tonnes in 2024, which is 26% of the global gold demand and second only to China's consumer demand of 815.4 tonnes during the year.

A substantial number of households invest a significant portion of their income in gold. While gold has a unique place in Indian society, there is no clear policy, whether it should be treated as a commodity or money.

Making a case for outlining a dedicated long-term gold policy, SBI Research has argued that it would help in localisation and financial stability.

"The time has now come to conceive a comprehensive policy on gold and for such it is important that one defines what is gold (commodity or money) and how is gold perceived by its ultimate consumer," SBI Research said in a note.

The perception on gold in economic thought in India is strikingly different from the Western countries. In the Western countries like the US, the UK, Germany and other European nations gold has achieved the status of public property, while in India and other Eastern countries like Japan and South Korea it is largely treated as private property.

The West's perception of gold is shaped by its past – social turmoil and wars - fought over gold for centuries. However, the West has not been able to change the perception of gold among households in Asia who continue to be net buyers of gold. Also, people in the East do not share the same traumatic history as the West vis-à-vis gold, SBI Research said.

"The net effect of this psychological conditioning is an alienation of gold as pure private property - a pure material asset (as against monetary asset) in public memory in the West that can be owned and traded at will... However, with increased financialisation and investment dictums, the cognitive biases may be in for some permanent bends," it added.

In India, the policy on gold has been predominantly focused on reducing demands and recycling of existing gold stock for productive purposes.

However, there is also a need to have greater debate on evolving a comprehensive policy on gold (say gold backed pension scheme) that will integrate with broader financial sector reforms and with currency convertibility on capital account, SBI Research suggested.

The research note authored by SBI Group Chief Economic Adviser Soumya Kanti Ghosh has underlined the need for an integrated national policy on gold, covering trading, import, jewellery export, investment and refining.

"Import policy for gold and silver should be further liberalised to put an end to smuggling and hawala activities. Select Bullion Associations in the country or some canalising agencies like the SBI or MMTC may be allowed to import gold and silver subject to some annual ceiling," it said.

Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal with New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon during a meeting, in Auckland on Wednesday. (PTI PHOTO)

India, US holding continuous trade talks: Goyal

AUCKLAND, PTI

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Wednesday said India and the US are holding continuous discussions for the proposed bilateral trade agreement.

"Talks are going well... and are continuously going on. ..kaee samvedanasheel mudde hai, kaee gambheer mudde hai, toh svaabhaavik hai ki thoda samay lagega (There are many sensitive issues, many serious issues, so it is natural that it will take some time)," he told reporters here.

He was replying to a question about the progress on India-US negotiations on the pact.

Goyal is here on a four-day official visit. He is leading a business delegation.

Five rounds of talks have been completed so far for the first phase of the bilateral trade agreement between the US and India.

A team of Indian officials, headed by Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal, was in Washington last month to hold trade talks with their US counterparts. The three-day talks ended on October 17, 2025.

In February this year, leaders of India and the US directed officials to negotiate a proposed Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA). They have fixed a deadline to conclude the first tranche of the pact by the fall of 2025. The proposed pact aims to more than double the bilateral trade to $500 billion by 2030.

IN BRIEF

Amazon India raises warehouse storage fees by 11%

NEW DELHI, PTI: Amazon India has raised its warehouse storage fees by about 11% to Rs 50 per cubic centimetre per month, effective November 15, 2025, marking its first storage fee adjustment since 2023, citing market alignment and higher operational costs.

Earlier this year, the online retailer had also scrapped referral fees for more than 1.2 crore low-value items priced up to Rs 300 across 135 categories and cut fees to 1% or lower for products priced between Rs 300 and Rs 500, including bedsheets, clocks, home furnishings and ethnic wear.

A reduction of up to 7% had been applied in higher-value categories such as fashion and small appliances. While Amazon said its overall fee trajectory has been significantly downward, several sellers expressed concern over rising costs.

BEML Q2 profit drops 6%

NEW DELHI, PTI: State-owned BEML on Wednesday reported a 5.8% decline in consolidated profit to Rs 48.03 crore in the quarter ended September 30, 2025, on account of lower income.

The company had posted a consolidated profit of Rs 51.03 crore in the year-ago period.

Its consolidated income during the July-September period fell to Rs 846.13 crore against Rs 874.70 crore in the year-ago period.

BEML serves core sectors like defence, rail and mining. It operates under three major verticals defence and aerospace, mining and construction and rail and metro.

Lighthouse Canton secures $40 mn in funding

NEW DELHI, PTI: Investment firm Lighthouse Canton has secured $40 million in its first-ever external funding round led by Peak XV Partners, with participation from Nextinfinity, the wealth and asset management service provider said.

Qatar Insurance Company (QIC), an early investor in the company, also participated in the funding round.

"Global investment institution, Lighthouse Canton... announces a $40 million strategic investment round led by Peak XV Partners, with participation from Nextinfinity (investment holding company of Shyam Maheshwari - Founding Partner of SSG Capital, later Ares SSG)," Lighthouse Canton said in a statement.

Venture Capital firm Peak XV Partners (formerly Sequoia Capital India and South East Asia) invests across India, Southeast Asia and beyond.

Presently, it manages assets worth $5 billion.

Emmvee Photovoltaic Power to float Rs 2,900-cr IPO on Nov 11

NEW DELHI, PTI: Makers of solar photovoltaic modules and solar cells Emmvee Photovoltaic Power Ltd is gearing up to launch its initial public offering (IPO) on November 11, aiming to raise Rs 2,900 crore.

The initial share sale will conclude on November 13. Shares will be allocated to anchor investors on November 10, according to the red herring prospectus (RHP).

The IPO comprises a fresh issue of shares worth Rs 2,143.86 crore and an offer for sale (OFS) of shares valued at Rs 756.14 crore by promoters, aggregating the issue size to Rs 2,900 crore.

Proceeds from the fresh issue worth a little over Rs 1,621 crore will be utilised for repayment or prepayment of loans and interest taken by the company and its key subsidiary, and for general corporate purposes, the company said in its RHP.

India to cut direct Russian crude imports from December

Reliance and govt firms are stopping imports from Russia

NEW DELHI, PTI

India is set to reduce its direct imports of Russian crude from late November, following new US sanctions on Rosneft and Lukoil, effective November 21.

Indian refiners accounting for more than half of the country's import of Russian crude oil, which is turned into fuels like petrol and diesel in refineries, are expected to comply with the latest sanctions on Moscow's two largest oil exporters, analysts said.

This, according to maritime intelligence firm Kpler, will trigger a sharp decline in Russian arrivals in December, with gradual recovery projected through early 2026 via intermediaries and alternative trading routes.

Top importer Reliance Industries Ltd, which has a long-term supply contract with Rosneft, will stop taking Russian oil. Two other state-controlled refiners have said they are stopping Russian oil imports. Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd and HPCL-Mittal Energy Ltd, a joint venture of steel tycoon Lakshmi Mittal's Mittal Energy and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL), have announced plans to suspend future imports.

The three accounted for more than half of the 1.8 million barrels of Russian crude oil imported in the first half of 2025.

However, Nayara Energy's Vadinar refinery, partially owned by Rosneft and already under EU sanctions, is likely to maintain its Russian crude intake.

Maharashtra becomes first state to partner with Starlink

MUMBAI, DHNS: In a pioneering step toward inclusive digital transformation, the Government of Maharashtra on Wednesday signed a Letter of Intent (LOI) with Elon Musk's Starlink Satellite Communications Private Ltd, marking Maharashtra as the first Indian state to formally collaborate with Starlink to deploy satellite-based internet services for government institutions, rural communities, and critical public infrastructure.

This is subject to Starlink's regulatory and compliance clearances from the Government of India.

The LOI was signed by Lauren Dreyer, Vice President, Starlink, and Virendra Singh, Secretary, Department of Information Technology, in the presence of Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis.

Under this strategic collaboration, this cutting edge technology will enable the Government of Maharashtra and Starlink to work together to connect remote and underserved regions of the state, including tribal schools, primary health centres, disaster control rooms, forest outposts, coastal zones, and aspirational districts such as Gadchiroli, Nandurbar, Dharashiv, and Washim.

The initiative also aims to power connectivity along key infrastructure corridors such as the Samruddhi Mahamarg, Ferries and coastal vehicles and ports, and coastal police networks, in addition to providing smart connectivity for education and telemedicine.

PSU banks post 9% growth in profit to record Rs 49,456 crore in second quarter

NEW DELHI, PTI: State Bank of India-led public sector banks posted a record cumulative profit of Rs 49,456 crore in the second quarter of the current fiscal, reflecting a 9% year-on-year growth despite two lenders reporting a decline.

All 12 public sector banks (PSBs) together made a profit of Rs 45,547 crore in the September quarter of FY25. Thus, the increase in profit in absolute terms was Rs 3,909 crore as compared to the same quarter of the previous financial year.

Market leader SBI alone contributed 40% to the total earnings of Rs 49,456 crore, as per the published numbers on stock exchanges. SBI logged a net profit of Rs 20,160 crore in Q2 FY26, 10% higher than the same period of the previous fiscal.

In percentage terms, Chennai-based Indian Overseas Bank reported the highest net profit growth of 58% to Rs 1,226 crore, followed by Central Bank of India with a 33% rise to Rs 1,213 crore. BoB reported an 8% fall in net profit.

BENGALURU WEST CITY CORPORATION - ZONE-2
Office of the Executive Engineer,
Basavanagudi Division, BWCC Building,
Chennamanakere Achchukattu,
Vidyapeeta, BSK 3rd Stage, Bengaluru-85.

No. EE(BG)/KPP/01/2025-26 Date: 05-11-2025

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)
(Through GOK KPP Portal) (Call-1)
website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in only

The Executive Engineer, Basavanagudi Division, BWCC, Bengaluru invites tenders from eligible Tenderers for the construction of works detailed in the table below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Package	Amount put to Tender (Rs.in Lakhs)	EMD Amount (in ₹.)
1.	Preparing Kadalekai Parishe Festival in Basavanagudi Bull Temple Ward and Thepothsava at Kempabudi Lake Ward in Basavanagudi Constituency.	42.34	85,000/-

Calendar of Events: (1) Tender documents may be downloaded from the KPP Portal from **06.11.2025 at 3:00 p.m. onwards. (2)** Last Date & Time for uploading tender documents on **13.11.2025 upto 5:30 p.m. (3)** Pre-Bid Meeting on **11.11.2025 at 4:00 p.m. (4)** Opening of Tender on **15.11.2025 at 10:00 a.m.**

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Basavanadugi Division, BWCC-Zone-2

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No: 506/BGM/SEE/Tr.(Pr)/C/EE(O)/AEE-2/25-26/F-20/2945-51 Date: 05.11.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPP Portal Only)

KPTCL invites bid against **Bid Enquiry No. KPTCL/2025-26/ SE2299** for Combined package of conducting line survey for the following works: **1.** Conducting detailed survey for Construction of 220KV DC LILO line on MC towers using Drake conductor from existing 220KV Narendra-Ghata prabha DC line to proposed 220/110KV S/S Halaki cross (Murgod) in Soundatti taluk, Belagavi district. **2.** Conducting detailed survey for Construction of 110KV LILO line on MC/DC towers using Lynx ACSR conductor from proposed 220KV Halaki cross (Murgod) station to existing 110KV Benakatti-Yaragatti SC line in Soundatti taluk, Belagavi district. **3.** Conducting detailed survey for Construction of 110KV SC line on MC/DC towers using Panther ACSR conductor from proposed 220KV Halaki cross (Murgod) station to existing 110/11KV Mallur sub-station in Soundatti taluk, Belagavi district. **4.** Conducting detailed survey for Construction of 110KV SC line on MC/DC towers using Panther ACSR conductor from proposed 220KV Halaki cross (Murgod) station to proposed 110/11KV Murgod substation in Soundatti taluk, Belagavi district. **5.** Conducting detailed survey for Construction of 110KV SC line on MC/DC towers using Panther ACSR conductor from proposed 220KV Halaki cross (Murgod) station to proposed 110/11KV K.Shivapur sub-station in Soundatti taluk, Belagavi district.

The detailed notification regarding the works called through the "E-procurement" mode can be obtained by logging onto E-procurement's website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on **06.11.2025 after 5.00PM**. Other details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.

Sd/- **Superintending Engineer (Elec.), Tr. (Projects) Circle, KPTCL, Belagavi-590010.**

GULBARGA ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Wholly owned government of Karnataka)
CIN Number: U04010KA2002SGC030436

No. GESCOM/CEE(O)/SEE/EEE/(MRT-LDC)/AEE-3/F-3214/2025-26/57294-99 Date: 5-11-2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION (KPP PORTAL MODE ONLY)

Indent No. **GESCOM/2025-26/IND0125/CALL-2 :** Supply of Portable Single Phase, Three Phase LT and HT Electronic Reference Standard Meters (Accuchecks) as per GESCOM specifications.
Tender Amount: **97.72 Lakhs**
Dates: Bid documents available at KPPP Portal: on or after **07-11-2025,** Last Date for Bid submission, Opening of Technical Bid and opening of price Bid: As per KPP Portal.
Bidder Qualifying Requirements: As per tender documents (IFT): For additional information Contact: Superintending Engineer El., MRT-LDC, Corporate Office, GESCOM, Kalaburagi-585102. Mobile: 9448359002. Web Site Address: **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** For information about the KPP portal, contact the helpline at +91-8046010000/8068948777 or e-mail address: **support@eprochelpdesk.com**

Sd/- Chief Engineer Electy, (operations), GESCOM, Corporate Office, Kalaburagi

DIPR/Kalaburagi/678/KSMC&A/2025-26

Government of Karnataka
Office of the Senior Geologist, District Administration building, Koppal
Telephone No.: 08539-221285 E-mail: sgdmgkoppal@gmail.com

Tender notification for the procurement of sand blocks identified in the 4th, 5th and 6th order stream/river characters of Koppal district through e-procurement

Notification for the quotation and allocation of sand blocks through electronic procurement No.:
DMG/2025-26/SE0144 Dated: 05.11.2025, DMG/2025-26/SE0145 Dated: 05.11.2025
DMG/2025-26/SE0146 Dated: 05.11.2025, DMG/2025-26/SE0147 Dated: 05.11.2025
DMG/2025-26/SE0148 Dated: 05.11.2025, DMG/2025-26/SE0149 Dated: 05.11.2025
DMG/2025-26/SE0150 Dated: 05.11.2025, DMG/2025-26/SE0151 Dated: 05.11.2025
DMG/2025-26/SE0152 Dated: 05.11.2025, DMG/2025-26/SE0153 Dated: 05.11.2025
DMG/2025-26/SE0154 Dated: 05.11.2025, DMG/2025-26/SE0155 Dated: 05.11.2025
DMG/2025-26/SE0156 Dated: 05.11.2025, DMG/2025-26/SE0158 Dated: 05.11.2025

As per Government Notification No. CI-MMN/115/2024, Bengaluru, dated:03.12.2024 in Budget 2024-25, Item 326, a new Sand Policy, 2020 has been approved to make sand available at fixed prices for public and government works. In order to ensure coordination among all government departments and eliminate confusion in implementing this policy and to provide sand to the public easily and at a reasonable price, the sand blocks identified in the 4th, 5th and 6th grade stream and river basins of Koppal district have been identified, the disposal of the sand blocks through tendering through e-procurement will be entrusted to the Department of Mines and Geology.
In this regard, as per the proceedings of the Koppal District Sand Monitoring Committee meetings were held on **23.09.2025** the 14 sand blocks in various taluks will be disposed of under the "where is, as is" concept as per the Karnataka Sub-Mineral Concession Rules subject to all the documents, conditions and provisions laid down in the tender document as per Government Notification No. CI-MMN/115/2024, Bangalore dated **03.12.2024**. This notification for the disposal of the said sand blocks through tender under electronic procurement (e-procurement) is invited under the Karnataka Public Procurement Transparency Act-2000. Interested public/bidders can submit their bids on Karnataka Government's e-procurement website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/**
There are individual tender called for all 14 sand blocks, Intrested public/bidders can submit their bids with relevant documents.
The schedule for the bidding process for the disposal of the above sand blocks is as follows.
Date of downloading of tender documents and other details : **05.11.2025**. Date and venue of tender pre-bid meeting : **18.11.2025, Time: 11.30 AM.** Office of the Senior Geologist Department of Mines and Geology, District Administration Building, Hospet Road, Koppal. Last date for receipt of tender documents through e-procurement : **03.12.2025, Time: 5:30 PM.** Date of opening of tender documents through e-procurement : **05.12.2025, Time: 11.00 AM.**
For more information Contact Office Number 08539-221285.

Sd/-Senior Geologist and Member Secretary, Department of Mines and Geology, Koppal, District Sand Monitoring Committee, Koppal

DIPR/Koppal/432/DeshpandePublicity/2025-26

GOA TOURISM DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD
(A Government of Goa Undertaking)
Paryatan Bhavan, 3rd Floor, Patto, Panaji - Goa. 403001
Tel: 0091(0)832-2494500 Fax: 0091(0)832-2437433
Website: www.goa-tourism.com E-mail: mdgtdc@gmail.com

No: GTDC/PC/EE(E)/2025-26/e-53 **Dated: 05 / 11 /2025**

Brief Tender Notice
(E-Tendering Mode Only)

The Executive Engineer, PC, GTDC, Panaji invites on behalf of the Managing Director, GTDC sealed e- tenders online mode only, in Two bid system namely Technical bid, Presentation & Technical Specification Bid and Financial Bid, from the Firms of Repute /Registered firms, who have the Experience of Implementing Similar Works of Providing Digital museums / Sound and Light / Digital Immersive show for the historic monuments and places of Tourist Importance anywhere in the country for the work as detailed below:-
Name of work ;- "Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Museum in Farmagudi Ponda Goa"
(a project under special assistance to states for Capital Investment (SASCI)
Reg:- Conceptualizing, Designing, Supplying, fabrication Installing, Testing,and commissioning A permanent Multi media projection mapping with components such as Immersive experience , and audio guide with combination of Physical scenography and spatial audio integrated with mixed media story telling with 3D/4D animation,2D/3D Holographic projection. AR/VR, sound and Light/ laser show and visual effects in the designated floor /areas.
The last date for submission for the tender documents shall be **25/11/2025** Up to **5:00pm.** For Detailed Tender Notice and for participation in e-tender please visit our e-tender website https://eprocure.goa.gov.in. tender notice is also available on www.goatourism.com for reference.

Sd/-
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER(E)
PC, G.T.D.C.

KARNATAKA SILK INDUSTRIES CORPORATION LTD
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)
3rd & 4th Floors, Public Utility Building, M.G. Road, Bengaluru – 560 001
Ph: 080- 25586550/25586402, Email: info@ksicsilk.com

No: KSIC/PR/RTENDER/MACHIERIES-JOB WORK/02/2025-26 **Dated: 05.11.2025**

RE-TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPP Portal Only)

Tenders are invited through KPP Portal from Manufacturers/Dealers for Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Machineries detailed in **Sl. No. 1 to 4** and Supply of Item detailed in **Sl. No. 5** and Job Work detailed in **Sl. No. 6.**

Sl. No.	Machinery Name	EMD (In Rs.)	Pre Bid Date and Time at KSIC, Head Office, Bengaluru	Last Date and Time for uploading the Tender along with EMD	Technical Bids Opening Date and Time
1	1 No. of 5 Ton/Hr Capacity Steam Boiler as per IBR and Chimney	2,46,000	14.11.2025 @11.00 AM	21.11.2025 by 03.00 PM	24.11.2025 @03.30 PM
2	3 Nos of Sectional Warping Machine with Creel	2,46,000	14.11.2025 @12.00 PM	21.11.2025 by 03.00 PM	24.11.2025 @03.30 PM
3	20 Nos of Heavy Duty Silk Looms with Electronic Jacquards-256 Hooks	2,62,000	14.11.2025 @01.00 PM	21.11.2025 by 03.00 PM	24.11.2025 @03.30 PM
4	1 No. of Automatic Weaving Machine	40,000	-	21.11.2025 by 03.00 PM	24.11.2025 @03.30 PM
5	20 Nos. of Almonard or Equivalent Brand Wall Mount Fans	4,400	-	21.11.2025 by 03.00 PM	24.11.2025 @03.30 PM
6	MACHINE Embroidery Work on 500 Nos of plain dyed Mysore Silk Sarees	35,000	-	21.11.2025 by 03.00 PM	24.11.2025 @03.30 PM

Tender Documents, details of the Notification, schedule terms & conditions can be downloaded from **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** Further details can be had from the office of the Undersigned during working hours or KPP Portal - helpdesk-080-46010000 and 080-68948777.

Sd/-
DIPR/CP/JA/3506/2025-26 **GENERAL MANAGER(Proc)**

From modest roots to a thriving enterprise, Gokak's vegetable nurseries are cultivating change in lives and livelihoods, writes Imamhussen Gudunavar

A farmer waters the seedlings at a nursery at Shindikurabet near Gokak.

Sowing success, one seed at a time

A four kilometre drive from Arabhavi Mutt on the Gokak–Ghataprabha road in Belagavi district unfolds a remarkable story of rural enterprise. The landscape is dotted with rows of shade nets and polyhouses, housing over 120 plant nurseries that nurture seedlings and saplings of vegetables, flowers, fruits and even sugarcane. What began as a localised income-generation activity has now grown into a flourishing business that is transforming lives and reshaping the region's economy.

Traditionally, local farmers here raised vegetable seedlings on small, raised beds. Most of the seedlings were transplanted into their own fields, a few were sold to neighbours. The scene began to change when a few entrepreneurs from Andhra Pradesh arrived and set up organised nurseries in the area. Realising the potential profitability of the business, many local farmers gradually followed suit.

A handful of nurseries soon multiplied. Today, these nurseries in and around Ghataprabha village near Gokak operate year-round. They produce seedlings of tomato, brinjal, cabbage, green chilli, capsicum, marigold, watermelon, sugarcane and more. Each crop has seedlings of hybrid and traditional varieties, and the seedlings are grown based on the cropping season. Buyers come from not only Belagavi, Bagalkot, Vijayapura, Ballari and Dharwad but also Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.

"About 21 years ago, I used to grow vegetable seedlings on a small patch near my field," recalls Praveen Mutari, a nursery owner. "Once I learnt about shade nets and polyhouses, I started using them. The business grew steadily. Now, I raise seedlings on 11 acres of owned and leased land, and employ 120 workers," he said, adding that with labour shortages rising, he has even mechanised parts of the process.

A vegetable farm developed using seedlings sourced from a nursery in Ghataprabha near Gokak. PHOTOS BY GOVINDRAJ JAVALI

Busy market

The Ghataprabha vegetable market, one of the busiest in the region due to good road and railway connectivity, begins trading as early as 3.00 am.

"Vegetables from here are supplied in bulk to Maharashtra and Goa," explains Mallikarjun Janamatti, senior assistant director, Horticulture Department. "Farmers from over 35 villages bring their produce here daily. On their way back, they buy seedlings from local nurseries. This encouraged Ghataprabha farmers to expand their nursery business."

According to Janamatti, this nursery belt in Ghataprabha is one of the largest hubs of vegetable nurseries in Karnataka. Before the nursery boom, Gokak and Mudalgi region cultivated horticultural crops on around 6,000 hectares. In the last 15 years, this has increased to over 10,000 hectares. "The impact is not just local—horticulture cultivation in nearby Bagalkot and Vijayapura districts has also grown, thanks to these nurseries supplying quality seedlings to farmers," he added.

Janamatti attributes this success to the region's favourable conditions also. "The area near the Ghataprabha river has excellent irrigation and reddish mixed soil (locally called *jaaj* soil) perfect for seedlings. Farmers who once grew seedlings in the open have now switched to shade nets. Many have built polyhouses too."

Adopting modern methods

The shift from traditional methods to modern nursery techniques has been a key factor in the growth of these nurseries. "In open-field nurseries, seedling growth largely depended on the weather, often resulting in uneven germination and weak plants. The risk of damage from animals was also higher. However, these modern nurseries now produce healthier seedlings, as they are grown in controlled environments using precise techniques," said Mahantesh Murgod, joint director of horticulture, Belagavi.

Not every nursery is large here. Many farmers run small, high-tech nurseries on plots as tiny as 0.2 acres. "We fill plastic trays with cocopeat, sow quality seeds sourced locally and from different companies and cover them for three days to retain moisture," explains Suresh Devamane, another nursery owner.

"Once they sprout, we treat them with crop-specific pesticides and water them regularly. In 25 to 35 days, they are ready to enter the field. Shade nets protect them from the sun and rain, so we can work across the year."

For farmers who buy these seedlings, the benefits are tangible. "I own four acres of land — two acres each for sugarcane and vegetables. Earlier, when I used seedlings grown in open fields, yields were average," says Raju Raibag, a farmer from Shindikurabet village. "Now, with nursery-raised seedlings, productivity has improved and crops mature faster. The plants are healthier and disease-free."

Echoing similar experience, Siddappa Hosamani from Shirahatti B K village in Hukkeri taluk, said, "Seedlings grown in open fields sometimes failed and we suffered losses. Now, by adopting scientific nursery practices, we get better yields. I am currently planting nursery-grown vegetable seedlings across two acres."

Thus, the nurseries thriving in this region have turned thousands of farmers' lives greener, in every sense of the word.

(Translated from Kannada by Divyashri Mudakavi)

A woman prepares a seed tray in the plant nursery.

A Kannada voice in the world of ghazal

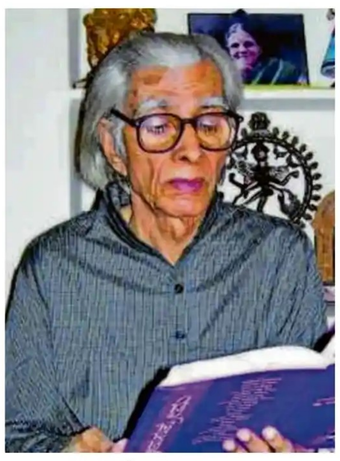
Carrying forward a legacy shaped by pioneers like Shantarasa, Anurag Gaddi is giving the ghazal a renewed voice and audience, writes Michael Patrao

Ghazals, a poetic form traditionally rooted in Persian and Urdu literature, are known for their lyrical couplet and emotive themes, often set to music. While Hindi and Urdu ghazals are widely recognised, Kannada, too, boasts of a rich and evolving tradition of ghazals.

Kannada ghazals, though inspired by their Persian and Urdu counterparts, have developed a unique identity. They may not always adhere strictly to classical rhyme schemes, yet they retain the essence woven with the themes of love, separation, social satire and philosophy.

Among the pioneers who gave a new dimension to ghazals in Kannada literature was Shantarasa, whose birth centenary was celebrated this year. A scholar of Urdu and Persian, Shantarasa translated Urdu ghazals and Persian Ruba'i (quatrains) into Kannada. Later, Chidananda Sali from Raichur, wrote *Mouna*, a celebrated volume of Kannada ghazals while Gundamma, also from Raichur, was popularly known as Ghazal Gundamma for her soulful rendition of ghazals. Another luminary, Ravindra Handiganur, who passed away in 2012, composed original Kannada ghazals including popular songs such as *Namba Beda Nalle* and *Madhuvanthi Neeniralu*.

Interestingly, most pioneers of Kannada ghazal hail from Kalyan Karnataka, where the art form thrived under the Nizam rule.



Shantarasa

A new voice

Carrying forward this legacy is Anurag Gaddi, one of today's most sought-after Kannada ghazal singers. Originally from Gangavathi and now based in Bengaluru, Anurag is on a mission to revive and popularise Kannada ghazals nationally and among Kannadigas worldwide.

In January this year, Anurag launched the Kannada Ghazal Yatra-100, a series of 100 Kannada ghazal performances across Karnataka and beyond. The Yatra, which has already held 15 events in Bengaluru, Shivamogga, Koppal and Chikkamagaluru, blends intimate soirees and public concerts. He plans to take it nationwide, reaching every corner where Kannadigas reside.

Each of his events features ghazal recitals, devotional renditions and collaborative performances with poets, writers and musicians. The aim is to make Kannada ghazals accessible and nurture a new generation of audience and performers.

Among his popular ghazals are *Male Barutide Gelati* (It is raining, my beloved, it is raining), *Ee Maunadalli* (In my silence), *Naavadida Andina Maatu* (The words we spoke then) and *Manasina Maathu* (Voice of the heart).

When asked why he chose to sing ghazals in Kannada rather than in Urdu or Persian, Anurag said: "Kannada is my mother tongue, the language in which I can best express myself and the nuances of a ghazal, something which I will not be able to do in Urdu and Persian, languages which are alien to me."

He adds that ghazals are also a way of promoting Kannada. "With the right voice and platform, these compositions can find a place among Kannadigas."

Veteran writer S G Siddaramaiah says, "Anurag Gaddi has embarked on a fresh experiment by taking ghazals in Kannada to the people. Kannada has always embraced world literary and musical forms, and ghazals are a fine example of that adaptability."

Anurag holds a master's degree in Hindustani Classical Music (Vocal) and is adept at the harmonium and tabla.

Kannada stand-up comedian Gangavathi Pranesh, who hails from the same town as Anurag, adds, "This is a unique experiment. You can only experience it when you listen to him."

Anurag Gaddi

FEEDBACK
Send your ideas and comments to:
spectrum@deccanherald.co.in

Gubbi's young birdwatchers in the making

H S Sudhira writes about a birding initiative on a college campus, which can offer a powerful template for change

The very name of the place — Gubbi, a town and taluk headquarters in Tumakuru district — translates to 'a house sparrow' in Kannada. Called Amaragonda until about the sixteenth century, legend has it that the town earned its new name after an incident involving two house sparrows, a saint and his exposition of holy scriptures.

Centuries later, the serendipitous connection to birds has found a deeper resonance by the extraordinary efforts of the Government First Grade College (Autonomous), Gubbi. The students and faculty of the college have not just admired the birdlife around them but have systematically documented a number of species found on their campus. The outcome, an engaging e-book, *Namma Campusina Hakkigalu* (Birds of our campus), stands as a testament to how curiosity and commitment can transform an ordinary campus into a living laboratory for biodiversity.

It all began in 2023 when Sharath Kumar B and Thirtha Prasad, then BCom students who graduated from the college last year, were fascinated towards the birds in and around the college campus. Srikanth G, an English professor and co-ordinator for the college's eco-club, nurtured their interest and guided them to identify birds, reptiles, aquatic insects and other taxa as part of the club activities.

Eventually, Sharath and Thirtha Prasad took the lead and mobilised students into an enthusiastic brigade of citizen scientists who then documented the birds, under the guidance of noted ornithologist Prashanth Badrinath. Their efforts went far beyond a routine academic exercise, becoming an opportunity for students to gain hands-on experience in biodiversity inventory and scientific documentation.

The e-book brought out by the students and faculty.

Students of Government First Grade College (Autonomous), Gubbi document birds on their campus; (Right) An Indian Grey hornbill and Oriental Honey-Buzzard sighted on the campus. PHOTOS BY SRIKANTH G

A vibrant ecosystem

Located far from the well-known biodiversity hotspots like the Western Ghats, Gubbi might not immediately come to mind as a haven for birds. Yet, despite its semi-urban setting, the college's 10-acre campus is a thriving ecosystem. Contributing to its rich birdlife is the adjacent Maranakatte Kere, a human-made wetland, which was an irrigation tank earlier. This aquatic proximity consistently draws water birds and other species to the area.

With over 375 trees, the campus offers a variety of foods and shelter to a number of aquatic and migratory birds, especially during the rainy season and winter months. In addition, the campus is surrounded by open shrubland and agricultural fields, further expanding the habitat, attracting a diverse range of species.

The team's effort has led to the documentation of 75 local and migratory bird species, all photographed in and around the campus. From the common kingfisher with its striking blue and orange plumage, to the diving little grebe, the regal brahminy kite, numerous warblers, prinias, and the tiny munias, each species tells a story of the vibrant life sustained within this modest patch of green.

"The eco-club has played an important role in fostering environmental awareness and strengthening the intrinsic bond between humans and nature," said Prasanna, the college principal. He envisions the college evolving into a model biodiversity campus, an aspiration that seems well within reach given their current achievements.

In the foreword to the e-book, Mangaluru-based zoology professor Ashoka C H, notes that such practical engagement offers students an invaluable foundation for future academic and scientific pursuits.

The e-book is now available free of cost for educational purposes.

Commending the efforts of the students and the faculty in bringing out the e-book, environmental science professor Prabhakar B S of St Joseph's University, Bengaluru said such local initiatives can inspire future generations and serve as platforms to engage and enthuse the community. He recalled a similar initiative undertaken over two decades ago by the students at a college in Karkala, where one of the participants, Geetha Nayak, later went on to work with the UN Environment Programme.

He also suggested that, as a next step, the group should explore the ecological significance of their findings and study the interrelationships with other taxa.

In an era marked by pressing environmental concerns like climate change and biodiversity loss, initiatives like the *Namma Campusina Hakkigalu* offer a powerful template for change.

The book demonstrates how curious students, supportive faculty and deep appreciation for nature can come together to inspire meaningful environmental action.

Ashwa Vedha wins feature

DELHI RESULTS

S Nawab-trained Ashwa Vedha, ridden by Sunny Kumar, won the Rajputana Rifles Plate, the feature event of the Delhi races on Wednesday.

1. Ceremonial Plate - 1400M: Ashwa Veeram (AS Peter) 1; Ashwa Jimbabe (Shivam) 2; Ashwa Changez (Md Talib) 3; Equal Luxury (Arjun) 4; Not Run: Exhilarating. Wb: 6-1/4, 2-1/2L, Nk. T: 1:25.87. TB: S Nawab. Fav: Ashwa Veeram.

2. Rajputana Rifles Plate - 1400M: Ashwa Vedha (Sunny Kumar) 1; Ashwa Yudhvir (AS Peter) 2; Accumulate (Jai Parkash) 3; Properly Posh (Saurav Rawat) 4; Wb: Shd, 2-1/4, 2-3/4L. T: 1:25.06. TB: S Nawab. Fav: Ashwa Yudhvir.

3. Shimla Plate - 1400M: Mr Christopher (Kundan Paswan) 1; Heer (Shivam) 2; Ashwa Kangto (AS Peter) 3; Viggen (Varun) 4; Wb: 3/4, Nk, 6L. T: 1:25.53. TB: SH Abbas. Fav: Ashwa Kangto.

4. Western Command Plate (Div I) - 1200M: Bigg Tymer (R Yousaf) 1; Maya (Varun) 2; Jaat Hero (Vishal) 3; Master Stoute (Rajinder Saini) 4; Wb: 1-1/4, 7-1/2, 3-1/2L. T: 1:12.82. TB: Imdad Ali Khan. Fav: Maya.

5. Western Command Plate (Div II) - 1200M: Ashwa Sultan (Narendra Kumar) 1; Winning Legacy (Rakesh) 2; Jet Sukhoi (Shekhawat) 3; Ustaad Ji (Saurav Rawat) 4; Wb: Nk, 5, 2-1/2L. T: 1:12.80. TB: S Nawab. Fav: Ashwa Sultan.

6. Cavalry Plate - 1100M: Burning Desire (Varun) 1; My Darling Bobby (Shivam) 2; Missey Boy (Shekhawat) 3; Sunchaser (RN Manjhi) 4; Wb: 3/4, 1-1/4, 1-1/2L . T: 1:07.39. TB: H Ali Khan. Fav: My Darling Bobby.

Bengaluru dividends

I race: Rs 11w; 10, 11, 21p; Fc: Rs 20; Q: Rs 17; Shp: Rs 18; Thp: Rs 48; Tri: Rs 113 & 86; Ex: Rs 1,377 & 506. **II race:** Rs 25w; 14, 10p; Fc: Rs 38; Q: Rs 13; Shp: Rs 27; Thp: Rs 16; Tri: Rs 52 & 34; Ex: Rs 52 & 42. **III race:** Rs 96w; 28, 16, p; Fc: Rs 455; Q: Rs 235; Shp: Rs 25; Thp: Rs 93; Tri: Rs 993 & 202; Ex: Rs 1,286 & 620. **IV race:** Rs 64w; 16, 12, 19p; Fc: Rs 108; Q: Rs 37; Shp: Rs 30; Thp: Rs 56; Tri: Rs 807 & 465: Ex: Rs 5,939 & 2,545. **V race:** Rs 25w; 14, 14, 31p; Fc: Rs 86; Q: Rs 69; Shp: Rs 37; Thp: Rs 77; Tri: Rs 966 & 464; Ex: Rs 6,398 & 1,828. **VI race:** Rs 37w; 13, 10, 42p; Fc: Rs 121; Q: Rs 51; Shp: Rs 29; Thp: Rs 88; Tri: Rs 1,098 & 552; Ex: Rs 5,379 & 5,763. **Jackpot:** Rs 55,782 (2). **Runner-up:** Rs 5,313 (9). **Treble:** Rs 2,236 (4).

Misty for Hillard Cup

KOLKATA SELECTIONS

Aashay Doctor-trained Misty, to be ridden by Hindu Singh, appeals most in the small field of five runners in the fray for the Hillard Cup, the feature event of the races to be run over a sprint on Thursday. The first race starts at 1:15 pm.

1. Loch Clieveden Handicap - 1400M: Hermod 1, Schwarzenegger 2, Fortune Warrior 3.

2. Aloritz Cup - 1400M: Gold Empire 1, Victoria Cross 2, Polka Dot 3.

3. Crystal Man Handicap - 1400M: Zuri 1, Bharat 2, Aabushan 3.

4. Cherry Handicap: Cortado 1, Togo 2, Laamika 3.

5. Stand Off Handicap - 1200M: Three Little Words 1, Impressive Annie 2, Cash Your Luck 3.

6. Hilliard Cup - 1200M: Misty 1, Clifford 2, Black Eagle 3.

7. Star Perfection Handicap - 1200M: Pantazi 1, Eleanora 2, Into The Storm 3.

Day's best: Cortado. **Jackpot:** 3, 4, 5, 6, 7. **I Treble:** 2, 3, 4. **II Treble:** 5, 6, 7.

Karnataka colts suffer big defeat

BENGALURU, DHNS: Karnataka suffered a second innings collapse on the final day to slump to a 242-run defeat against Chhattisgarh in the Elite Group D match of the Col CK Nayudu Trophy in Mysuru on Wednesday.

Chasing 365 after Chhattisgarh decided to declare at their overnight score of 273/7, the Karnataka U-23 side was 122 all out with pace duo Dev Aditya Singh (4/32) and Prashant Sai Painkra (4/39) running through an out-of-sorts top-order at the SDNRW Ground.

Karnataka remain top of the table with 28 points in three games (two wins and a defeat) while Uttarakhand and Himachal are behind them with 23 points each in the seven-team group.

Brief scores: Chhattisgarh: 303 all out & 273/7 decl bt Karnataka 212 all out & 122 all out in 41.5 overs (Faizan Khan 34; Dev Aditya Singh 4-32, Prashant Sai Painkra 4-39, Varun Singh Bhuie 2-4).

◆ ON TV ◆

CRICKET

4th T20I: Australia vs India **(1:45 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network** & **JioHotstar.**

2nd T20I: New Zealand vs West Indies **(11:45 am)**. **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Network.**

2nd 4-day game: India A vs South Africa A **(day 4, 9:30 am)**. **LIVE** on **JioHotstar.**

FOOTBALL

Europa League: GNK Dinamo vs Celta, Midtjylland vs Celtic **(both 11:15 pm)**, Aston Villa vs M Tel-Aviv, Rangers vs Roma, Real Betis vs Lyon, Stuttgart vs Feyenoord **(all 1:30 am, Friday)**. **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Network.**

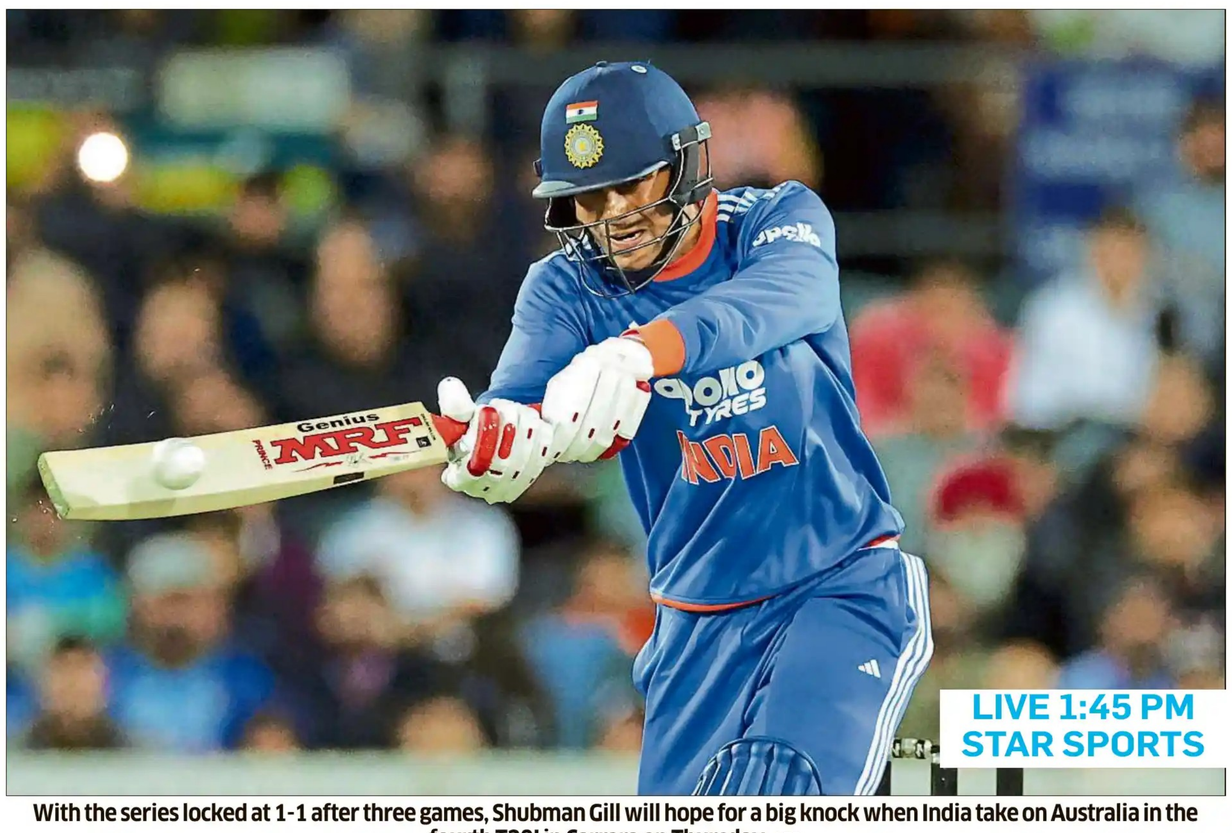
Super Cup: Rajasthan FC vs Sporting Delhi **(4:30 pm)**, Mumbai City vs Kerala Blasters **(7:30 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Khel, JioHotstar.**

CRICKET FOURTH T20I

Indians look to up the tempo

Vice-captain Gill will be hoping to hit form against a depleted Australia

CARRARA (GOLD COAST), PTI



With the series locked at 1-1 after three games, Shubman Gill will hope for a big knock when India take on Australia in the fourth T20I in Carrara on Thursday. AFP

Shubman Gill will be looking to turn the tables with a big knock after what has been an underwhelming tour when a confident India aim to go one up against a depleted Australia in the fourth T20 International here on Thursday.

The series is locked at 1-1 after three games and the absence of Josh Hazlewood in the previous game did make a difference to Australia's defence of a standard total of 186.

Going into the fourth game, there won't be any Travis Head for Australia as the opener is set to play Sheffield Shield to prepare for the Ashes.

With two pillars of the rival team unavailable, this is the best chance for India to go 2-1 up before the final game at the Gabba and wrap up a series win.

In the last game, India finally did look to get their combination right within their ambit of having an all-rounder at No. 8.

However, what will slightly bother the Indian team management is skipper Shubman Gill's form in the series as he has now played six games without a half-century.

The sequence of scores since the start of the ODI series reads 10, 9, 24, 37 not out, 5, and 15. The only time he looked in good nick was at Canberra when he stitched a nice little stand with skipper Suryakumar Yadav.

Gill has been troubled by fuller deliveries with a hint of movement and throughout the better part, he hasn't exactly looked in the regal touch which has made him the player that he is.

At the other end, Abhishek Sharma has done his reputation no harm as the world's No. 1 T20 batter with a fine half-century and two quick starts in the series.

However Gill, who will have to switch on to the red ball mode in a week's time, will certainly get a lot of confidence if he gets some runs irrespective of the format he is playing.

Skipper Suryakumar Yadav has shown some glimpses of his vintage self in the first and third matches with two good starts.

But he would also like to get some runs under the belt now that there will be a month-long break before the next series against South Africa.

In between, one would expect Suryakumar to play Mumbai's Ranji Trophy game against Puducherry.

The bowling department, with the inclusion of Arshdeep Singh, looks way more compact even as Kuldeep Yadav has been sent back to prepare for the Test series against the Proteas.

The team management's main issue has always been that both Kuldeep and Arshdeep can't be played together.

If Kuldeep plays in these conditions, then Harshit Rana, with better batting skills, needs to be fitted in.

When Arshdeep plays, they have to somehow get a Washington Sundar inducted and one saw the result as his 23-ball 49 decisively swung the third game in favour of India.

Morkel says Arshdeep is aware of management's intentions

CARRARA (GOLD COAST), PTI: He might have got the rough end of the stick in selection matters but Arshdeep Singh has enough experience to understand that the Indian team management is trying different combinations looking at the bigger picture, bowling coach Morne Morkel said on Wednesday.

Arshdeep was adjudged player of the match on his comeback to the playing eleven in the third T20 International against Australia in Hobart.

However, he wasn't picked in the first two games as he and Kuldeep Yadav can't be played in tandem and was not the first choice in the Asia Cup in September because of the conditions in Dubai. Notably, Arshdeep is the only Indian bowler with 100 plus T20I wickets.

"Arshdeep is experienced and he knows that we are looking at the bigger picture and trying out different combinations. He knows he is a world-class bowler and taken most wickets in the Powerplay," Morkel told mediapersons ahead of the fourth T20 International here on Thursday.

"We know how valuable he is to the team and but we also needed to look at other combinations and he understands that," he added.

Fit Pant returns for SA Test series

Pacer Prasidh left out as Akash Deep gets a recall

SIDNEY KIRAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

Rishabh Pant

A fit-again Rishabh Pant returned while Karnataka's Prasidh Krishna was left out at the expense of Akash Deep as the selectors on Wednesday announced a 15-member squad for the two-Test series against South Africa starting in Kolkata on November 14.

After Pant cleared all the fitness parameters in the opening four-day game between India A and South Africa A at BCCI's Centre of Excellence, his return for the crucial series against the current World Test Championship winners was a no-brainer. And, he takes back the vice-captaincy role from veteran Ravindra Jadeja, who had stepped in during his absence.

Pant, who played his first competitive game after fracturing his right foot in the Manchester Test against England late July, kept for 139.3 overs against South Africa A and looked in no discomfort whatsoever.

Captaining the side, he pulled off some fine diving saves against the pacers Khaleel Ahmed and Gurnoor Brar, both of whom were erratic at times. Against the spinners Tanush Kotian and Manav Suthar also he was on top of his game, barely missing a ball.

Apart from keeping, what was more encouraging was his batting. He fluffed the lines in the first innings, but 28-year-old upped his game in the second innings. He did look to attack from the start once again but this time his shot selection was better, scoring a game-changing 113-ball 90 that helped India A score a nervy three-wicket win.

Pant will be involved in the second game against South Africa A that starts at the same venue from Thursday.

Prasidh is the most notable omission as the selectors recalled Akash. Prasidh, however, has been picked for India A's two one-dayers against South Africa in Rajkot on Nov 16 and 19.

Barring that, there are no other changes to the Indian team that beat the West Indies 2-0 early last month. Jasprit Bumrah, who has played a lot of cricket from the England series, will share the new ball with his trusted lieutenant Mohammed Siraj.

The first Test is at the Eden Gardens from Nov 14-18 followed by the second at the ACA Stadium in Guwahati from Nov 22-26. Guwahati will be hosting its first-ever Test match.

Test squad: Shubman Gill (capt), Rishabh Pant (wk, vc), Yashasvi Jaiswal, KL Rahul, Sai Sudharsan, Devdutt Padikkal, Dhruv Jurel (wk), Ravindra Jadeja, Washington Sundar, Jasprit Bumrah, Axar Patel, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Mohammed Siraj, Kuldeep Yadav, Akash Deep.

India A's squad for one-day team: Tilak Varma (capt), Ruturaj Gaikwad (vice-capt), Abhishek Sharma, Riyan Parag, Ishan Kishan (wk), Ayush Badoni, Nishant Sindhu, Vipraj Nigam, Manav Suthar, Harshit Rana, Arshdeep Singh, Prasidh Krishna, Khaleel Ahmed, Prabhsimran Singh (wk).

Shaswati leads Bengaluru sweep in 80m hurdles

BENGALURU, DHNS

KOA President K Govindaraj (left) with Suryaansh Reddy, the winner of the 9-11 boys category golf event at the BGC. Ravikumar Raju, captain BGC, is also seen. Golf is being played for the first time in the Mini Karnataka Games.

Bengaluru girls swept the podium in the 80m hurdles event on the fourth day of the fourth Mini Karnataka Games here on Wednesday.

Shaswati Suresh bagged the gold after clocking 13.3 seconds while S Sri Swarna Rekha took silver and Palak Edwards won bronze.

Bengaluru's Mihika Udupa secured the girls singles table tennis title after defeating Rachita S from Mandya 8-11, 11-5, 11-7 and 11-9 in a well contested final.

Results (winners only): Boys: Athletics: 80m hurdles: Subhash R (Chitradurga); **400m:** Sandeep Vaddar (Dharwad); **Discus throw:** S Sudarshan (Chamarajanagara). **Archery: Recurve: 40m:** Daksh SP (Bengaluru); **Compound: 40m:** Sri Gowda (Bengaluru).

Golf: U-11: N Suryaansh Reddy (Bengaluru); **U-14:** Bavin Boyapati (Bengaluru). **Table tennis:** Sriram Kiran (Bengaluru). **Taekwondo: 24kg:** Jishnu Sasicumar (Bengaluru); **39kg:** Sunil Jakari (Bengaluru). **Weightlifting: 79kg:** Lakhan Prasad Vernekar (Dakshina Kannada); **79+ kg:** Dejil Roy (Kodagu); **71kg:** Tejas Sungar (Belagavi).

Girls: Athletics: 80m hurdles: Shaswati Suresh (Bengaluru); **400m:** Poorvi Harikantra (Uttara Kannada); **Discus throw:** Sharanya (Hassan); Long jump: Maanika A (Mysuru). **Archery: Recurve: 40m:** Tanya Nandakumar (Bengaluru); **Compound: 40m:** Mahika Mittal (Bengaluru). **Golf: U-11:** Vedika Bhansali (Bengaluru); **U-14:** Aida Thimmaiah (Bengaluru). **Table tennis:** Mihika Udupa (Bengaluru). **Taekwondo: 23kg:** Likhithanjana K (Bengaluru); **48kg:** Amrutha Babeesh (Bengaluru). **Weightlifting: 63+kg:** Varsha Bajaniri (Belagavi). **Boxing: 30-35 kg:** Kashika Kariappa (Mysuru).

Rybakina slays Alexandrova

RIYADH, AFP: Elena Rybakina maintained her undefeated record at the WTA Finals with a 6-4, 6-4 victory over Russian alternate Ekaterina Alexandrova in Riyadh on Wednesday.

It was a rematch of the Ningbo final from three weeks ago, which saw Rybakina capture her second title of the season.

The Kazakh world number six extended her current winning streak to nine of her last nine matches contested, and will face one of Aryna Sabalenka, Jessica Pegula or Coco Gauff in semifinals.

"Ekaterina is always a tough opponent and has a big serve. I'm happy I was able to win in straight sets. Each win gives you confidence and I'm pretty happy that for now my last matches have been great," said Rybakina, who was playing with taping on her shoulder.

Alexandrova was brought in as a replacement for American Madison Keys, who withdrew ahead of the match due to a viral illness.

Ghosh pulls off a sensational upset

MANISHA MOHITE

Diptayan Ghosh (right) during his game against Ian Nepomniachtchi.

Diptayan Ghosh of India pulled off a sensational upset, knocking out two-time World Championship Challenger and reigning joint World Blitz Champion Ian Nepmniachtchi out of the FIDE World Cup with a 1.5-0.5 score.

The second game of the second round was a dramatic affair where Pentala Harikrishna was the cynosure with one of the most beautiful games in recent times while World No. 8 and the 5th seed here, Wesley So, resigned in a drawing position against Titas Strema Vicius to exit the event.

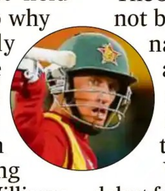
GM Karthik Venkatraman knocked out higher ranked compatriot Arvind Chithambaram. Last edition's semifinalist, Nijat Abasov was also eliminated by Andrey Esipenko with a 0-2 score. Vassily Ivanchuk also exited with a 0-2 loss against Sam Shankland.

World Champion D Gukesh, Arjun Erigaisi, Harikrishna, Ghosh and Karthik Venkatraman advanced to the third round while R Praggnanandhaa, Vidit Gujrathi, Nihal Sarin, Raunak Sadhwani, Pranav V, Pranesh M, Karthikeyan Murali and S L Narayanan will fight for survival in the tie-break on Thursday. Out of 17 Indians to feature in the second round, Arvind Chithambaram, Suryashekhar Ganguly, Aryanak Ghosh and Iniyan Pa have been eliminated.

Results (Game 2 of round 2, only Indians): Kazybek Nogerbek (KAZ) lt to GM D Gukesh 0.5-1.5; Arjun Erigaisi bt Martin Petrov (BUL) 2-0; Temur Kuybokarov (AUS) drew R Praggnanandhaa 1-1; Surya Sekhar Ganguly drew GM Maxime Vachier-Lagrave (FRA) 0.5-1.5; Ian Nepomniachtchi lt to Diptayan Ghosh 0.5-1.5; Aronyak Ghosh drew Levon Aronian (USA) 0.5-1.5; Faustino Oro (ARG) drew with Vidit Gujrathi 1-1; Aravindh Chithambaram lt to Karthik V 0.5-1.5; Nihal Sarin drew Stamatis Kourkoulos-Arditis (GRE) 1-1; Arseniy Nesterov lt to Pentala Harikrishna 0.5-1.5; Thai Dai Van Nguyen (CZE) bt GM Iniyan Pa 1.5-0.5; Pouya Idani (IRI) drew with Karthikeyan Murali 1-1; SL Narayanan drew with Nikita Vitiugov (ENG) 1-1; Dmitrij Kollars (GER) drew with GM Pranesh M 1-1; Aryan Tari (NOR) bt Pranav Venkatesh 1-1.

Ex Zim captain Williams axed permanently over addiction

HARARE, AP: Former Zimbabwe cricket captain Sean Williams **(in pic)** won't be selected for his country again after disclosing that a drug addiction was the reason he skipped some matches, the national federation said.



Zimbabwe Cricket held an investigation into why Williams suddenly withdrew from the squad on the eve of a Twenty20 World Cup qualifying competition in September. During the investigation, "Williams disclosed that he has been struggling with drug addiction and has voluntarily entered rehabilitation," ZC said in a statement.

Williams' withdrawal was likely because of potential drug tests at the competition, ZC said. Zimbabwe hosted and went on to win the eight-team African tournament to qualify for the T20 World Cup early next year in India and Sri Lanka. ZC did not give any details on which drug Williams admitted using but said he had "a history of disciplinary issues and repeated unavailability," though it commended him for entering rehab.

The 39-year-old batter will not be considered for the national team again and his contract will not be renewed when it expires at the end of this year, ZC said.

Williams made his debut for Zimbabwe in 2005 and ended up playing for his country for 20 years, appearing in 24 tests, 164 one-day internationals and 85 T20 internationals. His highest test score of 154 came last December against Afghanistan.

Another former Zimbabwe captain, Brendan Taylor, said in 2022 that his cocaine use led to him being blackmailed by match-fixers.

PM Modi meets world champions

NEW DELHI, PTI

India captain Harmanpreet Kaur (left) and her deputy Smriti Mandhana hold the ICC Women's World Cup trophy as Prime Minister Narendra Modi applauds on Wednesday. PTI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday met the triumphant Indian women's cricket team at his residence and lauded the players for their "remarkable resilience and comeback" in the World Cup after enduring a tough phase marked by three consecutive defeats.

The Prime Minister also referred to the trolling the players had faced on social media after the early setbacks and praised them for showing exemplary mental strength to bounce back and script history.

Recalling their earlier meeting with Modi after the 2017 World Cup, captain Harmanpreet Kaur said the team had then come without a trophy hopefully they will achieve success and get to meet him more often. Vice-captain Smriti Mandhana said the Prime Minister's words were a huge source of motivation.

The Harmanpreet-led side arrived in the national capital on Tuesday evening for the meeting, two days after scripting a defining moment for Indian women's cricket by winning its maiden global title — the 50-over World Cup — with a 52-run victory over South Africa in the final in Navi Mumbai.

During the interaction, Player of the Tournament Deepti Sharma told Modi she had been waiting to meet him since 2017, recalling how he had then urged them to keep working hard to achieve their dream.

When the Prime Minister mentioned her "Jai Shri Ram" Instagram bio and the tattoo of Lord Hanuman on her arm, Deepti smiled and said they gave her strength.

Harmanpreet asked Modi how he manages to stay in the present at all times. The Prime Minister replied that it had become a part of his life and a habit over time.

He also recalled some memorable moments from the team's journey, including Harleen Deol's spectacular catch against England in 2021, about which he had posted on social media.

The Prime Minister fondly referred to Harmanpreet pocketing the ball after the World Cup final. She said she was lucky that the ball came to her.

In a lighter vein, Modi also spoke about Amanjot Kaur's juggling catch in the final. While catching, you must have been seeing the ball, but after catching it, you must have been seeing the trophy, he joked.

Punjab FC shoot Bengaluru out

BENGALURU, DHNS: Punjab FC secured their semi-final spot in the AIFF Super Cup, defeating Bengaluru FC 5-4 in a penalty shootout after the match ended goalless in regulation time at the PJN Stadium in Fatorda (Goa) on Wednesday.

Both Punjab and Bengaluru finished with seven points apiece, with two wins and a draw to their name. As both teams were locked on the same points, goal difference (six), and goals scored (six), the winners of Group C had to be decided via a penalty shootout.

BFC's Ryan Williams was the only player to have his spot-kick saved, knocking them out of the competition. Suresh Singh, Rahul Bheke, Sunil Chhetri and Braian Sanchez scored for the Blues.

Result: Bengaluru FC: 0 lt to Punjab FC: 0 in the penalty shootout 4-5.

Nagini wins gold in state athletics

BENGALURU, DHNS: Mid-distance runner Nagini won the gold medal on the opening day of the State-Level Girls Athletic Meet in Mysuru on Wednesday.

The Junior Nationals silver medallist (U-18) dominated the rest of the field by almost 10 seconds as she clocked 4:49.2 seconds to take the race in the three-day event.

Results: 1500m: Nagini (Dakshina Kannada) 4:49.2s, 1; Charishma (Dakshina Kannada) 4:58.2, 2; Akshara Majukar (Belagavi) 5:05.4, 3. **Shot put:** M Reddy Sanjana (Bangalore South) 15.57m, Shrimayi Kulkarni (Dakshina Kannada) 12.43, 2; Akshatha Shetty (Udupi) 11.72. **100m H:** Sakshi Christina (Dakshina Kannada) 14.89s, 1; Ramya Kadam (Vijayapura), 15.03, 2; Harshitha P (Bangalore North) 15.06, 3.

Kickstart FC retake lead with 2-0 win

BENGALURU, DHNS: Last season's runners-up Kickstart FC registered a smooth 2-0 win over Sporting Club Bengaluru to retake the lead in the KSFA Super Division League Championships at the BFS here on Wednesday.

Results: Kodagu FC: 3 (BS Mrinal Muthanna 8th, Lalkrawsmawia 35th, 57th) bt Bangalore City FC: 0; FC Agniputhra: 3 (Crispin C Cleetus 37th, Gautam Rajesh 61st, Azfar Noorani 90+2nd) bt MFAR Students Union FC: 1 (Salman ul Faris 34th); Kickstart FC: 2 (V Vignesh 41st, Ngairangbam Rakesh Singh 89th) bt Sporting Club Bengaluru: 0.

FC Agniputhra's Gautam Rajesh celebrates scoring a goal against SUFC.
DH PHOTO/ B K JANARDHAN

CRICKET FOUR-DAY GAME

Final warm-up ahead of the bigger battles

Rahul, Siraj, Kuldeep join India A for the second game against South Africa A

VIGNESH BHARADWAJ
BENGALURU, DHNS

KL Rahul will look to spend some quality time in the middle when India A clash with South Africa A in the second and final four-day game at the BCCI's CoE in Bengaluru on Thursday. PTI

There is nothing in cricket like spending some quality time in the middle for regaining rhythm and Rishabh Pant would look to ride the momentum from the first four-day game, while Kuldeep Yadav and Mohammed Siraj will hope to add more overs under their belt in the second unofficial Test against South Africa A at the BCCI's Centre of Excellence (CoE) in the outskirts of Bengaluru here from Thursday.

Returning to action after a three-month injury layoff, Pant successfully passed his first assignment, logging in 139.3 overs behind the stumps and scoring 107 across two innings, including a 113-ball 90 which included 11 fours and four sixes.

He will now hope to tick the remaining boxes, especially one of recovery (three-day gap between two games), before the South Africa Test series, which starts on November 14 in Kolkata.

The focus will also be on Kuldeep and Siraj, who will look to add some crucial red-ball overs under their belt, having been part of India's white-ball touring party to Australia.

After playing just one of the three ODIs and the first two T20Is, Kuldeep was released from the Indian squad on team management's request.

While Pant, Siraj and Kuldeep stir up serious interest, the match will be followed keenly as KL Rahul, Dhruv Jurel, Prasidh Krishna and Akash Deep all have joined the squad.

And it presents a chance for Rahul to fine-tune his skills on a surface that has something in it for the quicks, with tougher tests from the likes of Kagiso Rabada, Marco Jansen and Corbin Bosch in under two weeks time.

The game will also serve as a some serious workout for Sai Sudharsan, having not made much of an impression in the five-Test-old career while returning scores of 32 and 12 in the first game against South Africa A. While he has won the trust of the team management, the rewards have not yet been satisfactory.

Having been in and around the India setup since making his Test debut in Dharamsala in March 2024, Devdutt Padikkal, who will slot in at No. 3, will be desperate for runs to push his case after scoring 6 & 5 in last week's match.

In the fast bowling department, Akash and Prasidh are likely to come in for Khaleel Ahmed and Gurnoor Brar.

While Manav Suthar is expected to make way for Kuldeep, Tanush Kotian will hope to build on his brilliant outing in the first game. On the other hand, Temba Bavuma, who missed South Africa's tour of Pakistan due to injury, will make his return and hope for a good show before he faces the Indian test.

Squads: India A: Rishabh Pant (c) (wk), KL Rahul, Dhruv Jurel (wk), Sai Sudharsan (vc), Devdutt Padikkal, Ruturaj Gaikwad, Harsh Dubey, Tanush Kotian, Manav Suthar, Khaleel Ahmed, Gurnoor Brar, Abhimanyu Easwaran, Prasidh Krishna, Mohammed Siraj, Akash Deep.

South Africa A: Marques Ackerman, Temba Bavuma (c), Okuhle Cele, Zubayr Hamza, Jordan Hermann, Rubin Hermann, Rivaldo Moonsamy, Tshepo Moreki, Mihlali Mpongwana, Lesego Senokwane, Prenelan Subrayen, Kyle Simmonds, Tsepo Ndwandwa, Jason Smith, Tiaan van Vuuren, Codi Yusuf.

Sale of RCB gathers fresh momentum

United Spirits says it is reviewing investment in sports business

BENGALURU, DHNS

The sale of the Indian Premier League franchise Royal Challengers Bengaluru gained fresh momentum after its owner United Spirits Ltd (USL) decided to initiate "strategic review of the investment in the Royal Challengers Sports Private Limited" which is the wholly owned subsidiary of USL that manages the men's and women's teams in IPL and WPL respectively.

Though the parent company Diageo had refused to comment on the "speculations" a few weeks ago following talks of sale of the franchise, in an exchange filing with the Bombay Stock Exchange on Wednesday, the USL stated that the move follows its decision to focus on its core "alcobev business."

Though USL said the process of the review was expected to be completed by March 31 next year, it didn't specifically comment on the sale of stake in its subsidiary.

According to a source, the company is in the process of exploring various options and is consulting all the stakeholders before taking a decision.

"It is in the process of valuing the company after the phenomenal success with the men's team earlier this year. However, there is no decision on selling the franchise as yet," the source said.

Commenting on the development, Praveen Someshwar, Managing Director & CEO of USL, said in the filing: "RCSPL has been a valuable and strategic asset for USL, however it's non-core to our alcobev business. This step reinforces USL's & Diageo's commitment to continue reviewing its India enterprise portfolio to enable sustained delivery of long-term value to all its stakeholders, while keeping RCSPL's best interest in mind."

India's vaccine czar Adar Poonawala is reported to have held talks with USL to buy the franchise which is expected to be valued at USD 2 billion while the sports business accounted for 8.3% of USL's total profit for the last financial year.

Liverpool sink Real Madrid

PARIS, AFP

Alexis Mac Allister scored the only goal as Liverpool beat Real Madrid in the Champions League on Tuesday, while Luis Diaz grabbed a brace as Bayern Munich sunk title-holders Paris Saint-Germain 2-1 in the French capital.

Premier League leaders Arsenal won 3-0 at Slavia Prague as rising star Max Dowman came off the bench to become the youngest player in the competition's history, at just 15 years and 308 days old.

Alexis Mac Allister (centre) scores Liverpool's lone goal in their win over Real Madrid on Tuesday. REUTERS

Results: Napoli: 0 drew with Eintracht Frankfurt: 0; Slavia Prague: 0 lt to Arsenal: 3 (Saka 32nd, Merino 46th, 68th); Atletico Madrid: 3 (Alvarez 39th, Gallagher 72nd, Llorente 90th+6) bt Union Saint-Gilloise: 1 (Sykes 80th); Bodo/Glimt: 0 lt to Monaco: 1 (Balogun 43rd); Juventus: 1 (Vlahovic 34th) drew with Sporting Lisbon: 1 (Araujo 12th); Liverpool: 1 (Mac Allister 61st) bt Real Madrid: 0; Olympiacos: 1 (Martins 17th) drew with PSV: 1 (Pepi 90th+3); PSG: 1 (Neves 74th) lt to Bayern: 2 (Diaz 4th, 32nd); Tottenham: 4 (Johnson 19th, Odobert 51st, Van de Ven 64th, Palhinha 67th) bt Copenhagen: 0.

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